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WELCOME JANUARY 2021

The Civil Wars wreaked havoc on the British Isles in the 17th century

The Civil Wars of the 17th century turned life upside down for people all over the British Isles. As Charles I and Parliament fought bitterly for control, **ordinary men and women were sucked into the conflict and families were ripped apart**: brother fighting brother, father battling son, neighbour against neighbour. Ultimately, Charles I lost his head and England was declared a Commonwealth, until history turned a full circle and the monarchy was restored in 1660. This month, **we've teamed up with Professor Mark Stoyle to explore the Civil Wars in more detail** – from the road to war and key battles, to propaganda and Charles's execution. Turn to page 26 to find out more.

Fast-forwarding to the 20th century, a new eight-part BBC series this month will **explore the heinous crimes of serial killer Charles Sobhraj** (nicknamed the Serpent for his ability to wriggle away from capture), who left a trail of death and destruction across Asia in the 1970s. We take a closer look at his story, and discover how he was finally brought to justice, from page 58. *The Serpent* premieres on New Year's Day on BBC One and BBC iPlayer.

Elsewhere, **we share the stories of ten entrepreneurs from history** – from the haircare empire of Madam CJ Walker, to the 'try again' attitude of Henry Ford (*page 65*) – and separate fact from fiction in the medieval Children's Crusade (*page 21*). We also join 19th-century journalist and adventurer Nellie Bly on her **whistlestop tour of the globe** (*page 16*), and find out more about one of England's most famous kings: Richard the Lionheart (*page 56*).

I hope you all have a very healthy and happy New Year.

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

3.6
The percentage of England's population who died as a result of the Civil Wars.

100
The number of inventions created by entrepreneur Beulah Louise Henry by the time of her death.

6
The maximum number of months Richard I is thought to have spent in England during his reign.

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ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X3 THIS PAGE: JENI NOTT X1, GETTY IMAGES X1

CONTENTS JANUARY 2021

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

THE CIVIL WARS

28 Everything you wanted to know about the Civil Wars
Professor Mark Stoyle provides an overview of this turbulent period in the history of the British Isles

34 A nation divided
Follow the pivotal events of the Civil Wars

36 Road to war
How frustration and mistrust boiled over into conflict

40 Charles I
Trace the Stuart king's dramatic rise and fall

42 Oliver Cromwell
The life and career of the man who became Lord Protector

44 10 key battles
Discover the main military engagements of the Civil Wars

48 The New Model Army
The story behind England's first professional fighting force

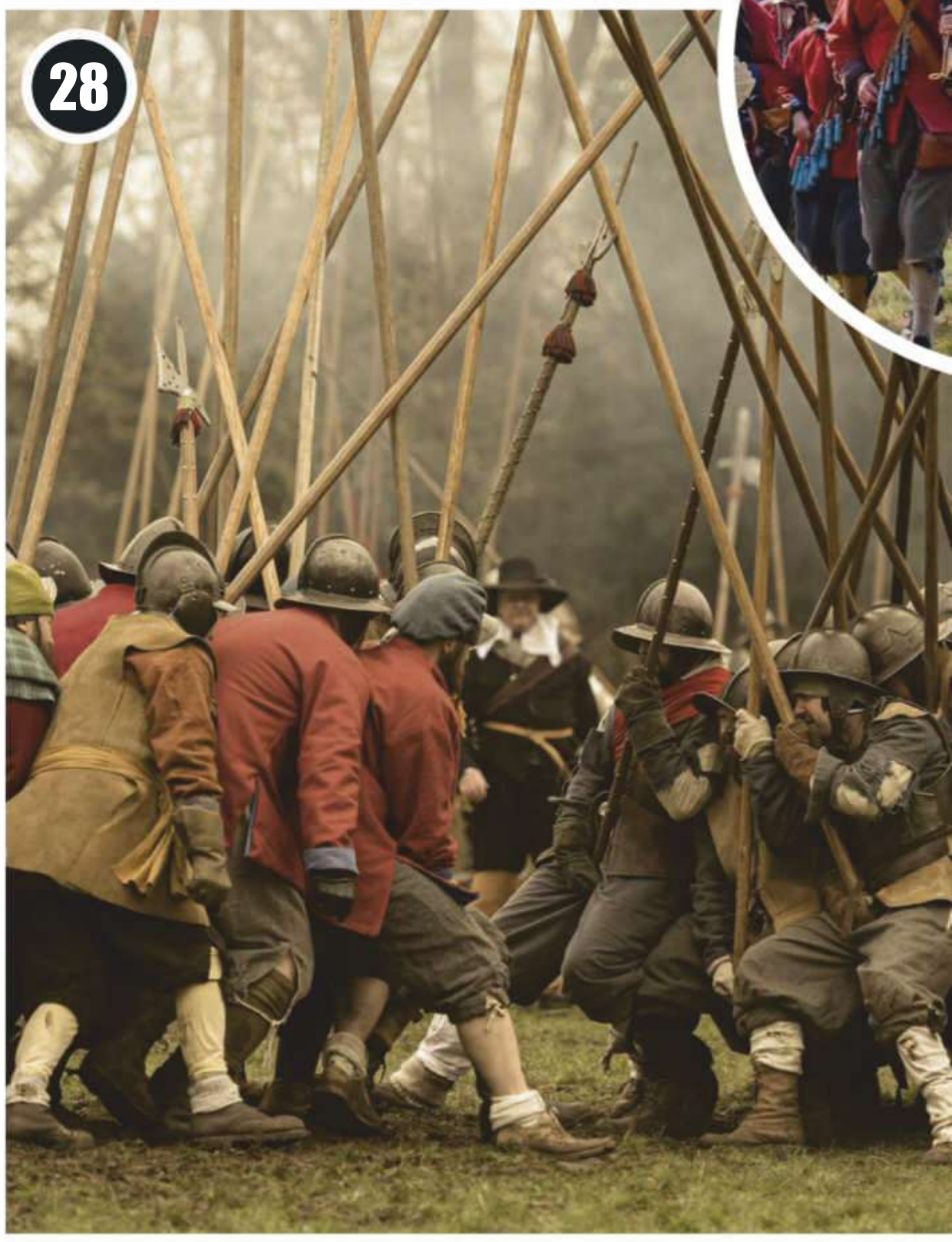
50 Ready for battle
How did royalist and parliamentarian armies fight?

51 Warrior women
Why the Civil Wars weren't purely a male domain

52 War of words
Inside the vicious propaganda campaigns led by both sides

54 Killing the King
How Parliament made a previously unthinkable decision

54 What came next?
What happened in the wake of Charles I's execution?



▲ The Civil Wars ripped the nation apart, pitting brother against brother and Parliament against its king

FEATURES

56 Spotlight on... Richard the Lionheart
How did this crusading king, who spent most of his time fighting overseas, become one of England's most fêted monarchs?

58 Charles Sobhraj's deadly trail
How the 1970s serial killer was finally brought to justice

65 10 entrepreneurs who changed the world
From a Scottish engineer to a German housewife, we shine a light on some of history's most successful inventors and business tycoons

70 What if... the Soviets had won the Space Race?

▲ Bravery and bloodshed: Richard I's reign assessed

▲ How a petty thief became a cold-blooded murderer

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X5, SHUTTERSTOCK X1

48

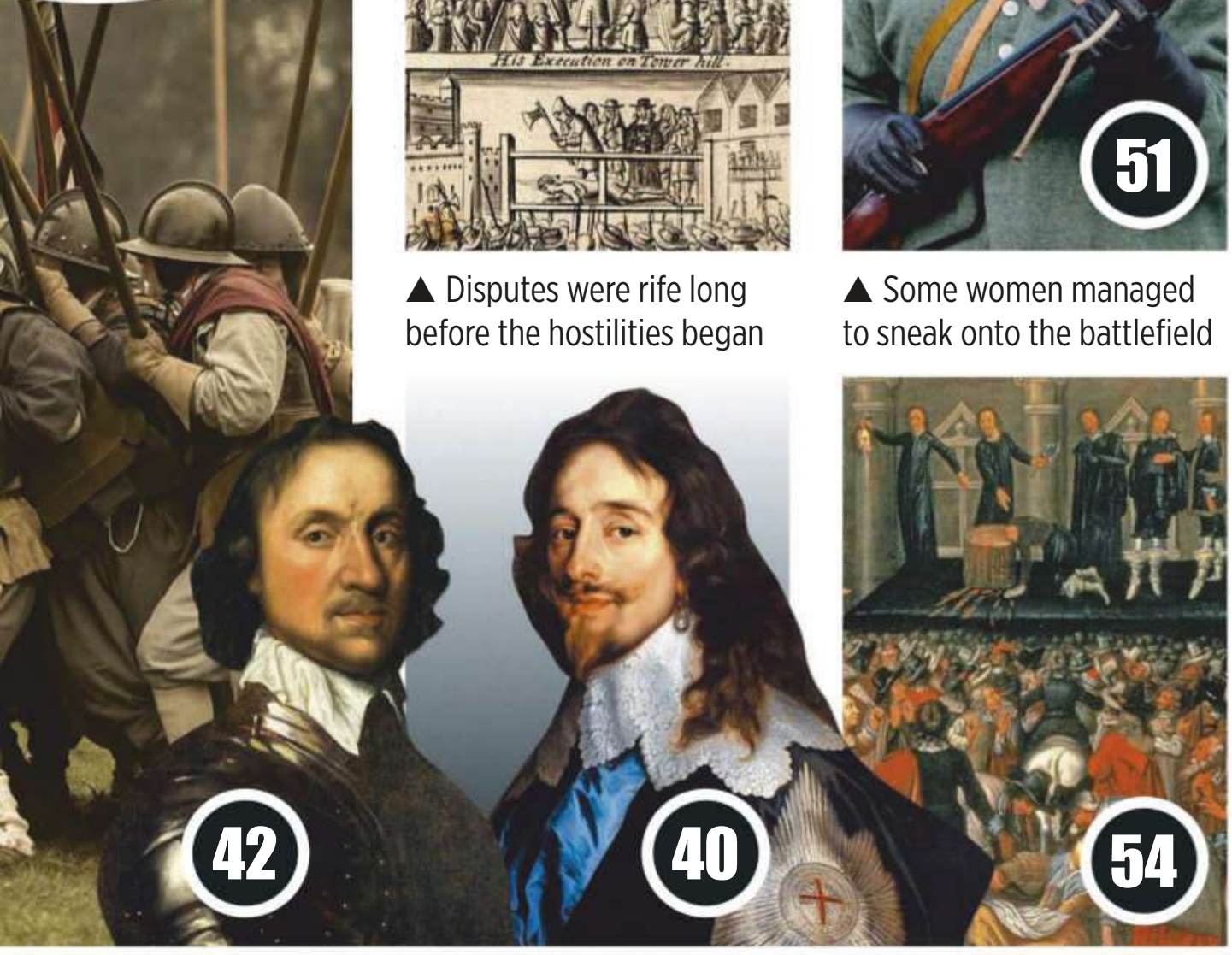
◀ Clad in red coats and deeply committed to their cause, the men of the New Model Army proved themselves to be formidable fighters

36

▲ Disputes were rife long before the hostilities began

51

▲ Some women managed to sneak onto the battlefield



42

40

54

▲ Both Oliver Cromwell and King Charles I presided over periods of seismic change

▲ MPs took unprecedented steps to end the Civil Wars

65

▲ The men and women whose clever innovations transformed countless lives

70

▲ Despite their achievements in space, the Soviets missed out on the big prize

EVERY MONTH

6 Snapshots
A frantic January sale at Harrods, and more

12 What We've Learned This Month
Recreating historic smells, the discovery of Caligula's palace, and more

14 My Life In History
Dr Helen Farr, maritime archaeologist at the University of Southampton

16 This Month In... 1890
American journalist Nellie Bly completes a record-breaking voyage around the globe

21 In A Nutshell
The ill-fated Children's Crusade of 1212

73 Ask the Experts
Has anyone tried to fly from the Eiffel Tower? What was the Little Red Book? These and other historical questions answered

79 TV, Film & Radio
This month's history entertainment

82 What's On
Exhibitions to enjoy online and in person

84 Books & Podcasts
The latest historical releases and podcasts

86 Historical Fiction
Frances Quinn shares an extract from her debut novel, *The Smallest Man*

87 Letters

88 Prize Crossword

89 Next Issue

90 Photo Finish

24

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SNAPSHOTS

1961 THE DALMATIANS DESCEND

To celebrate the French premiere of Disney's *One Hundred and One Dalmatians*, a group of Parisian schoolchildren don dog masks and greet some real-life dalmatians at the cinema. The film, Disney's 17th animated feature, would go on to be one of the most popular films released in France that year. Based on a 1956 novel by Dodie Smith, it tells the story of a litter of Dalmatian puppies who are kidnapped by the evil heiress Cruella de Vil for the purposes of making a fur coat. A live-action remake was released in 1996.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1988 BARGAIN HUNTERS

Not willing to let a good deal pass them by, shoppers jostle to get their hands on cut-price crockery in London's iconic department store, Harrods. The January sales have been a tradition in western societies since at least the early 20th century – as soon as the festive season is over, shops drop their prices and customers rush out to take advantage. During a particularly brutal January sale at Harrods in 1981, one lady was knocked over and split her head open, and the shop's manager was roughed up by people clamouring to get raffle tickets for a half-price television set.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1928
CUT AND DRY

This contraption may look like an elaborate torture device, but it is in fact a hairdryer. First developed in the late 19th century, one of the earliest hairdryers came from France and consisted of a simple bonnet attached to the chimney of a gas stove. This particular photograph shows a chrome-plated hairdryer from the 1920s; lighter plastic devices eventually became more popular, making trips to the salon more comfortable.

GETTY IMAGES

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH....

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

RIGHT: **Professor Matija Strlič, one of the project leaders, sniffs an old book in the National Archives of the Netherlands**

BELOW: **A Dutch perfume case dating from the 17th century**

RECREATING THE SMELLS OF BYGONE AGES

A massive project led by historians, scientists and artificial intelligence experts is to recreate the smells of old Europe. The €2.8m (£2.5m) initiative, named Odeuropa, will attempt to bring back scents that people would have been familiar with between the 16th and 20th centuries. Due to commence in January 2021, the project will initially develop software to scan historical texts for descriptions of smells. An encyclopedia of the odours will then be compiled, before being recreated by a team of chemists and perfumers.

MAIN: **Researcher Caro Verbeek smells a pomander. Fragrances were once thought to help protect people from diseases, which were thought to be caused by bad smells**

MATIJA STRLIC X1, CARO VERBEEK X1, SCIENCE MUSEUM, LONDON X1, GETTY IMAGES X2, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY X2, SOPRINTENDENZA SPECIALE DI ROMA X1, KR DARK X1

ARCHAEOLOGISTS FIND CALIGULA PALACE

The remains of a palace complex belonging to the ancient Roman emperor Caligula have been unearthed by archaeologists in Rome. Discovered beneath a modern office building, researchers also found the remnants of a lavish garden and private menagerie, complete with the bones of lions, ostriches and deer. The luxury home, located on Rome's Esquiline Hill, was originally presented to Caligula as a gift when he became emperor in AD 37. The tyrannical ruler was known for his extreme cruelty, extravagance and hedonism, and was assassinated just four years into his reign.

TOURIST RETURNS STOLEN MARBLE

A US woman has returned a piece of ancient Roman marble that she stole during a visit to the Eternal City. The fragment, which had been defaced with the words "To Sam, love Jess, Rome 2017", was posted to the National Roman Museum in October, along with an apology letter. It's not known where in the city the marble came from, but it's possible that it once formed part of the Roman Forum (*below*). The confession and return may have been inspired by the recent case of a Canadian tourist, who returned tiles stolen from Pompeii in 2005, claiming she had suffered bad luck ever since.

HAS THE HOME OF JESUS BEEN FOUND?

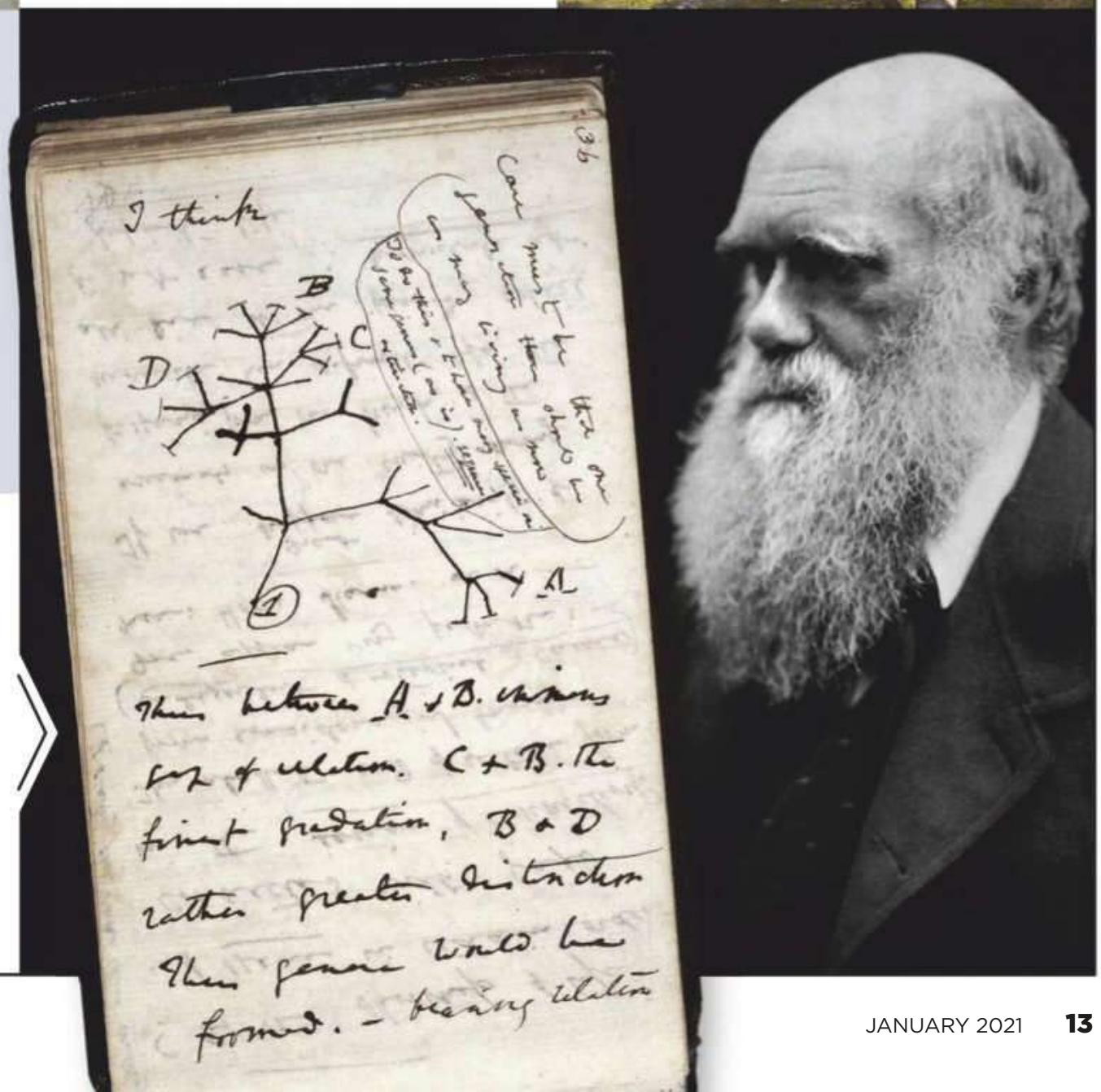
A University of Reading academic says there is "strong evidence" that an ancient house found in Nazareth might be Jesus's childhood home. Professor Ken Dark, who dates the dwelling to the 1st century AD, has been studying the site for 14 years. The house lies beneath a modern convent, which itself was built over a Byzantine era church. Carved into a rocky hillside, its builder would have been a skilled craftsman. The site was originally excavated in the 19th century, but claims it was the home of Jesus were dismissed, and it remained virtually forgotten until Dark began reinvestigating.

215

The number of musket balls – part of a cache of weapons sent to help Bonnie Prince Charlie during the failed 1745 Jacobite rising – recently found in the Scottish Highlands

CHARLES DARWIN NOTEBOOKS "LOST"

Cambridge University Library has admitted that two notebooks written by naturalist Charles Darwin have been missing for 20 years. An extensive search by the library has revealed that they were most probably stolen, and an appeal has been launched for their return. The notebooks, thought to be worth millions, include an early example of Darwin's famous Tree of Life sketch (*right*), which explores the evolutionary relationship between species. Originally removed for photographing back in November 2000, it was only two months later that staff noticed the items had gone missing.



“Seeing something that hasn’t been seen or used for thousands of years gives you a real connection with the past”

A 3D image of a fifth century BC ancient Greek shipwreck at the bottom of the Black Sea. Its mast is lit by a remote operated vehicle

RODRIGO PACHECO RUIZ/ THE JULIA AND HANS RAUSING TRUST X1, DANIEL RIORDAN X1, MARTIN HARTLEY X1, BARRY MCGILL X1, BRIAN GÅRE X1

A diver surveys a submerged coastal landscape in southern Italy

Farr operates a remote vehicle in the Black Sea. This is one of the critical pieces of technology that helps archaeologists study cultural heritage deep underwater

Maritime Archaeologist

Helen Farr

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED AND INTERESTED IN MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY?

I grew up as far from the sea as you can get in the UK, but I always had a love of the ocean. I elected to study archaeology and anthropology at university: it was the breadth of the discipline and combination of arts and sciences which attracted me. At that time I was inspired by [primatologist and anthropologist] Jane Goodall and wanted to study orangutans, but in the end, it was the human past that really fired my imagination. I was aware of maritime archaeology, but it wasn't until I learnt to dive that it dawned on me that I had a way of combining my academic interest and my passion for the sea. After that I never looked back!

HOW DOES YOUR WORK DIFFER TO STANDARD ARCHAEOLOGY?

Archaeology encompasses all aspects of the past understanding changing landscapes, sites and material artefacts and cultures from the deep past right up to the present. Unlike many historical specialisms, it doesn't only focus on written texts, or the time periods that have these written archives. Maritime archaeology has a wide scope.

So much of human history is tied to the sea. Understanding maritime archaeology in context helps us contribute to a wide range of contemporary issues, too for example rises in sea levels, ocean plastics, offshore development or the history of slavery and colonialism.

Of course, maritime archaeology includes studying sites that are underwater, such as submerged landscapes and shipwrecks, but it covers so much more from narratives of coastal change, technology and engineering, naval history, shipping and trade, art, museums and cultural heritage, just to name a few! So, you don't necessarily even have to be a diver to specialise in maritime archaeology; it is much broader than the study of shipwrecks.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST FASCINATING PROJECT YOU'VE WORKED ON?

Recently I have been working on the Black Sea Maritime Archaeology project the largest maritime archaeological project to have taken place in recent history. The project had a specific remit to understand the changing nature of the Black Sea through the Holocene epoch (roughly the past 10,000 years) as it reconnected with the Mediterranean after the last Ice Age. But in the process of conducting this work we also recorded 65 amazingly preserved shipwrecks that covered 2,500 years of history in the region.

We used cutting edge technology to reach great depths; guiding a remote operated vehicle 2,000m below sea level to explore the deep sea floor was an incredible experience. The ships we recorded were unique, such as the Venetian medieval 'round ship' of the sort Marco Polo would have been familiar with, or the ancient Greek vessel that was the most intact vessel of this age ever discovered.

WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST PARTS OF BEING A MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGIST?

For me, the best part of being a maritime archaeologist is being at sea. When surveying or excavating, there is always a frisson of excitement when you make a discovery; seeing something that hasn't been seen or used for thousands of years gives you a real connection with the past.

The worst part is when you see underwater sites being destroyed by those who want to make a profit. Treasure hunters, looters and salvage companies destroy underwater cultural heritage sites for their own gain. This is deeply distressing.

IS THERE A PARTICULAR SITE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK ON?

There are so many known sites I would like to work on or visit! But it isn't the really famous shipwreck sites that hold the biggest draw for me. There are many very ancient sites that have been submerged due to rising sea levels; these sites can help us understand some of the questions we still have about human origins and our changing planet.

HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED WITH MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY?

There are various ways people can get involved with maritime archaeology all around the world, from online resources or classes held by organisations such as the Maritime Archaeological Trust (*maritimearchaeologytrust.org*). Or you can join the Nautical Archaeological Association (*nauticalarchaeologysociety.org*) and start building your skills, both above and below the water. You can also volunteer with your local CITiZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) project (*citizan.org.uk*).

If you are really keen you could even study with us at the Centre for Maritime Archaeology at the University of Southampton.

DR HELEN FARR is Associate Professor in Archaeology at the University of Southampton and co-chair of the UNESCO UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology

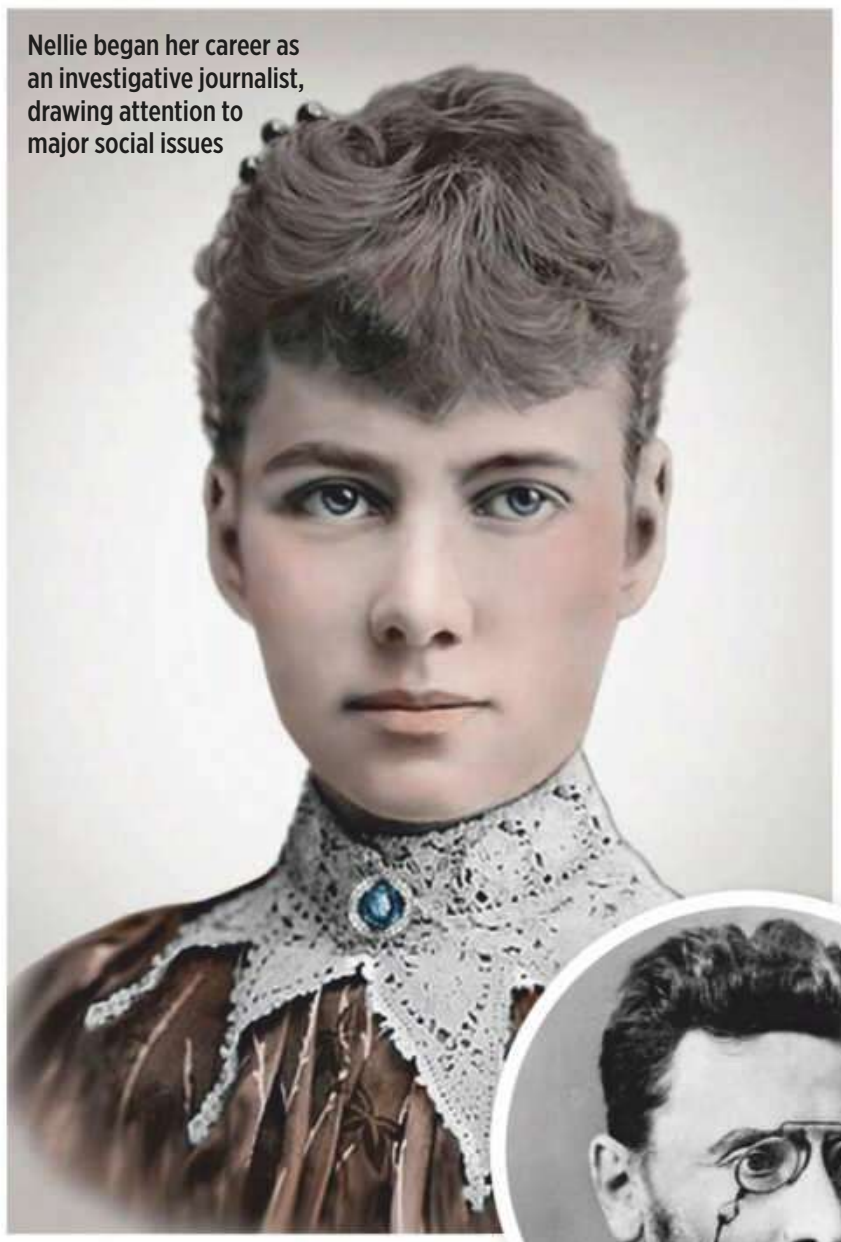
Nellie Bly successfully completes her round-the-world race in 72 days

Words: Rhiannon Davies

When investigative journalist Nellie Bly arrived in New Jersey on 25 January 1890, a scene of celebration greeted her. Jersey City station was "packed with thousands of people" who had all gathered together to witness history. As she leapt down from the train carriage, "one yell went up from [the crowd], and the cannons at the Battery and Fort Greene boomed out the news of [Bly's] arrival". The globetrotter wrote in her 1890 account of her trip, *Around the World in Seventy Two Days*, that she "took off [her] cap and wanted to yell with the crowd, not because I had gone around the world in 72 days, but because I was home again".

For the past two and a half months, Bly had journeyed across the globe, racing to catch trains, battling with nausea on steamships, navigating rickshaws and even riding astride horses and donkeys. Her exploits had taken her across the Atlantic Ocean, through Europe, the Arabian Sea and Far East, and then back across the Pacific. Such exotic adventures would likely have seemed a world away to a young Bly born Elizabeth Jane Cochran in 1864 who spent her early childhood in Apollo, a small Pennsylvanian mill town. Bly said that as a young girl she had been possessed by a voracious appetite for words; she had apparently read every book she could get her hands on and penned many stories of her own.

As well as her self confessed love of reading and writing, Bly possessed boundless curiosity, a strong work ethic and steely determination, all of which helped propel her to fame as an investigative journalist. Writing under her nom de plume – Nellie Bly – her powerful prose brought attention to pressing social issues of the time. Her big break came in 1887, when, at the behest of Joseph Pulitzer, the owner of the *New York World*, she went undercover in the asylum at Blackwell's Island in New York for ten days and revealed the terrible treatment patients endured.



Nellie began her career as an investigative journalist, drawing attention to major social issues

Newspaper magnate Joseph Pulitzer, who commissioned Nellie's 1887 asylum exposé

Following the exposé that made her name, Bly continued to put herself in danger in search of stories. From purchasing a baby to reveal the workings of the city's white slave trade, to trying her luck as a boxer by training in the ring with heavyweight champion John L Sullivan, her journalistic output shocked and thrilled the *World*'s readers in equal measure. But on one Sunday in 1888, leads for future stories had dried up. Finally, during the early hours of the morning, as she tossed and turned in her bed, she thought: "I wish I was at the other end of the earth!"

FROM DREAM TO REALITY

This would prove to be Bly's 'eureka' moment. "I need a vacation; why not take a trip around the world?" she wrote. "If I [can] do it as quickly as Phileas Fogg did, I should go." Her madcap idea to pit herself against Fogg, the character created by the French writer Jules Verne, who had successfully circumnavigated the globe in 80 days, made the voyage an even more tantalising prospect.

Spurred on by this thought, Bly hurried to a steamship company's office the next day and grabbed a fistful of timetables, desperate to see whether her late-night inspiration was plausible. It was – and not only that, but Bly calculated that she could tour the world in 75 days, beating

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

Nellie commenced her travels with a transatlantic crossing aboard the steam vessel *Augusta Victoria*

ABOVE: ***Around the World in Eighty Days*** **author Jules Verne personally supported Nellie's attempts to recreate the voyage from his famous novel**

TOP RIGHT: **A publicity snap printed by the *New York World* to promote her high-stakes adventure**

"Unaccustomed to travelling by boat, Nellie succumbed to a bout of seasickness that caused much amusement among passengers"

Vernes' fictional globetrotter by a whole five days.

However, when Bly spoke to her business manager about the novel idea, her enthusiasm turned to dismay. "It is impossible for you to do it," he decreed. "No one but a man can do this." Filled with indignation, Bly replied: "Very well. Start the man, and I'll start the same day for some other newspaper and beat him."

Around a year after this heated exchange took place, Bly received an unexpected summons to the editor's office. Wondering what she was to be scolded for as she made her way to see him, her dread gave way to excitement as he asked: "Can you start around the world the day after tomorrow?"

The next 48 hours passed in a flurry of activity, as she told friends of her upcoming adventure and prepared for a trip that would see her pass through every type of climate zone imaginable. Determined to forgo cumbersome trunks, Bly decided to take only one dress and pack everything else she would need into one hand-satchel. Pens and paper, underwear, toiletries, a silk bodice, a dressing gown, a tennis blazer, a flask and cup, two caps, three veils, slippers, a needle and thread and handkerchiefs were all squashed into the bag, and – bulkiest of all – "a jar of cold cream to keep my face from chapping in the varied climates I should encounter". She chose to carry no weapons in her modest luggage, writing: "I had such a strong belief in the world's greeting me as I greeted it that I refused to arm myself."

Upon leaving home early on the morning of 14 November 1889, the enormity of her undertaking caused Bly's reserve to momentarily falter. She recounted: "There was a hasty kiss for the dear ones, and a blind rush downstairs trying to overcome the hard lump in my throat that threatened to make me regret the journey that lay before me." While she was on her way to the steamer *Augusta Victoria* that would take her from New Jersey to Southampton, the journalist buoyed herself with the thought: "It's only a matter of 28,000 miles, and 75 days and four hours, until I shall be back again."

A DATE WITH JULES VERNE

Much to her dismay, Bly's journey started not with a bang, but with a whimper. Unaccustomed to travelling by boat, she succumbed to a bout of seasickness that caused much amusement among her fellow passengers. After violently "[giving] vent to [her] feelings" over the side of the ship's railing, one onlooker said sneeringly: "And she's going around the world!"

Bly did eventually find her sea legs, though, and sailed into Southampton seven days later. Upon reaching England, she was told that Jules Verne was eager to meet with her and had invited her to his home in Amiens, France. Although this unexpected invitation would take Bly off course, she gratefully accepted. She described Verne and his wife in glowing terms and recalled how the writer had enquired which route she planned to take and led her to a map in his hallway showing Fogg's route. Picking up a pencil, he marked where Bly's diverged. He then wished the young journalist luck with her travels, saying: "If you do it in 79 days, I shall applaud with both hands."

Leaving Verne's house while the Moon was still high, Bly took a 1.30am train to the port of Brindisi in Italy. From there, she stepped aboard the steamer *Victoria*, which transported her to the Suez Canal and then on to the Red Sea, stopping at the Port of Aden (now in Yemen). Although the ship's officers had warned Bly and her fellow passengers not to disembark because of the high temperatures, Bly "decided to brave the heat and go ashore and see what Aden had to offer".

While exploring Aden, Bly described the locals she encountered and was particularly struck by the "bewitching" sight of women with "long purple-black hair, which was always adorned with a long, stiff feather, dyed of brilliant red, green, purple, and like striking shades". Although her accounts of the people that she met during her journey were often complimentary, her work is tinged with the imperialist – and sometimes racist – attitudes that were held by many westerners at the time.

After stopping at Aden, Bly's next opportunity to leave the *Victoria* was at Colombo in Ceylon (modern-day Sri Lanka). Here, she sent a telegraph to the *World* giving them an update

A street in Yokohama, Japan, c1895. The country was one of Nellie's final destinations

of her progress. As these missives were by necessity few and far between, the newspaper resorted to ever more inventive ways of keeping readers back home interested in Bly's journey. For instance, they ran a popular sweepstake where, to be in with a shot of winning an expenses paid trip to Europe, readers had to guess how long her trip would take down to the minute.

But Bly was unaware of the 500,000 bets on the timing of her return. Hold-ups at Colombo were threatening the next leg of her journey. Forced to wait for a boat that could take her to Hong Kong – some 3,096 miles away – Bly busied herself by taking a trip in a catamaran, attending a Parsee theatre, and trying curry for the first time. Of the latter, Bly wrote: "I became so given to curry that I only stopped eating it when I found, after a hearty meal, curry threatened to give me palpitation of the heart."

FIERCE COMPETITION

After arriving in Colombo, Bly received word that a ship called the *Oriental* could take her to Hong Kong. The voyage proved fraught, with the humidity in the Straits of Malacca (between Sumatra and the Malay peninsula) making Bly "for the first time during my trip... uncomfortably hot. It was sultry and foggy and so damp that everything rusted, even the keys in one's pockets."

The *Oriental* soon left the unbearable humidity behind, though, and sailed into Hong Kong's port on 23 December.

> "Bly busied herself by taking a trip in a catamaran, attending a Parsee theatre, and trying curry for the first time"

But when Bly reported to the Oriental and Occidental Steamship Company's office to organise her travel to Japan, she received a most unwelcome gift. "You are going to lose it," the office worker told Bly, to her astonishment. "The other woman; she is going to win. She left here three days ago."

It turned out that Bly had not been alone in her efforts to traverse the world in less than 80 days. A rival publication, *Cosmopolitan*, had tasked their literary editor, a 28-year-old woman named Elizabeth Bisland, with pulling off the same feat – and pipping Bly to the post by returning home even earlier. Although Bly declared she wasn't perturbed by the news and headed to Japan as planned aboard the *Oceanic*, it seemed to send her into something of a tailspin.

But fate was on Bly's side, and once she arrived in Japan, she was soon able to leave for America – again on the *Oceanic*. This final leg on a steamship proved the opposite of her first few unpleasant hours on the *Augusta Victoria*. "I would rather go in dead and successful than alive and behind time" declared Bly three days after she had left Yokohama, Japan, and was on her way across the Pacific.

Bly arrived in San Francisco on 21 January 1890 at 8am, a day ahead of schedule. The *World* had arranged for a single-car train dubbed 'The Miss Nellie Bly Special' to speed her across the continent. And it did so in record time: in just 69 hours, she had travelled a record-breaking 2,577 miles.

FIT FOR A QUEEN

Wherever the train briefly stopped, she was greeted by crowds of ecstatic Americans. She described her journey across the US as "one maze of happy greetings, happy wishes, congratulating telegrams, fruit, flowers, loud cheers, wild hurrahs, rapid hand-shaking and a beautiful car filled with fragrant flowers attached to a swift engine that was tearing like mad through flower-dotted valley and over snow-tipped mountain... It was glorious! A ride worthy [of] a queen."

And those who turned out to catch a glimpse of Bly as she sped back to New Jersey certainly treated her like a queen, with people dressed in their Sunday

RIGHT: **A newspaper illustration depicts the warm welcome Nellie received after stepping back on home soil**

BELOW: **Rival reporter Elizabeth Bisland, who desperately tried – and failed – to beat Nellie to the finish line**

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X3

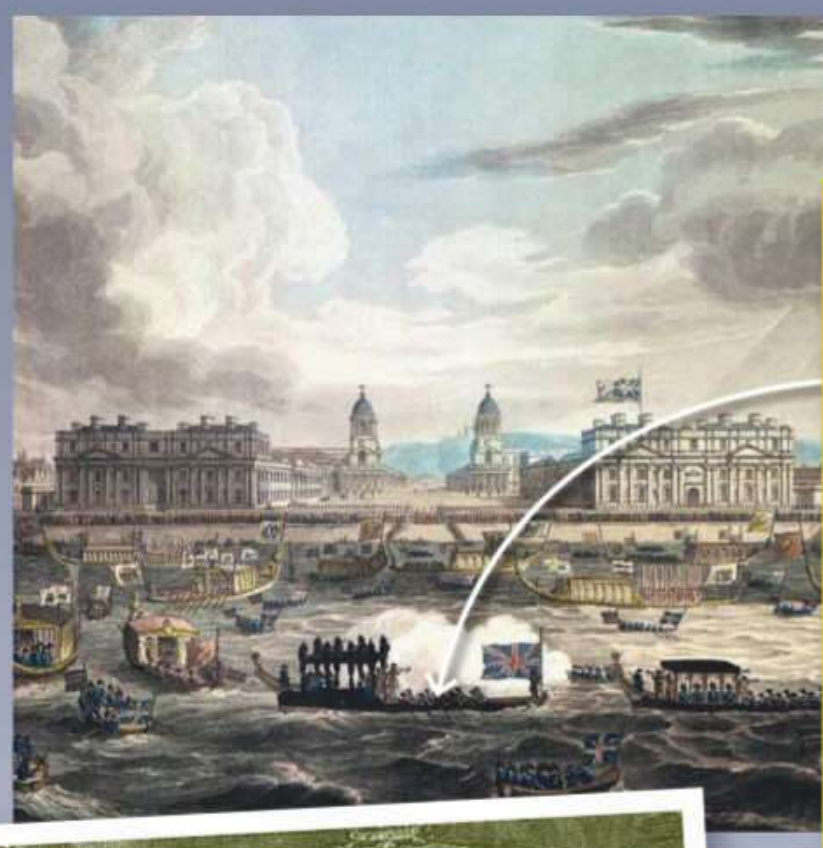
best clamouring to shake her hand and running after the train once it pulled out of the station, "grabbing for my hands as long as they could". Bly said of the events: "My arms ached for almost a month afterwards, but I did not mind the ache if by such little acts I could give pleasure to my own people, whom I was so glad to be among once more."

After switching to a slower train at Chicago that would take her on to Philadelphia, the penultimate step of her incredible journey passed by in something of a blur. Bly wrote: "Almost before I knew it I was at Philadelphia, and all too soon to please me, for my trip was so pleasant I dread the finish of it." But finish it would, and Bly found herself in a carriage for the final time in her globetrotting adventure. Surrounded by friends and members of the press who had all got on at Philadelphia, she gave speeches as the train rattled on to Jersey City station. At 3.51pm on 25 January, Bly jumped onto the platform: her epic race around the world was officially complete.

Her journey clocked in at 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes and 14 seconds, setting records for the fastest round-the-world trip. She had trounced Fogg, beaten her original aim of 75 days – and bested her rival Bisland, too, who arrived back five days later.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

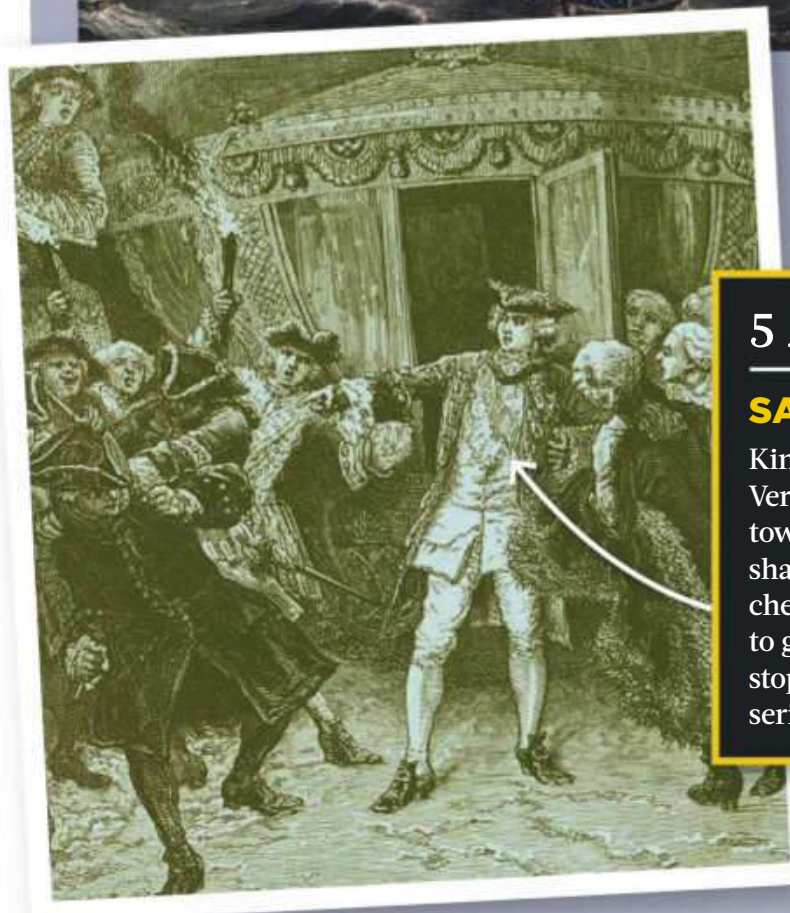
A LOOK BACK AT THREE OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN JANUARY THROUGHOUT HISTORY



8 January 1806

FITTING FUNERAL

Tens of thousands of people turn out to watch Lord Nelson's funeral procession in London, with some purchasing tickets to secure the best view. The service takes place at St Paul's Cathedral the following day – sailors refuse to fold the *Victory*'s flag as they are meant to and instead tear it up for themselves to keep as mementos of the naval commander.



5 January 1757

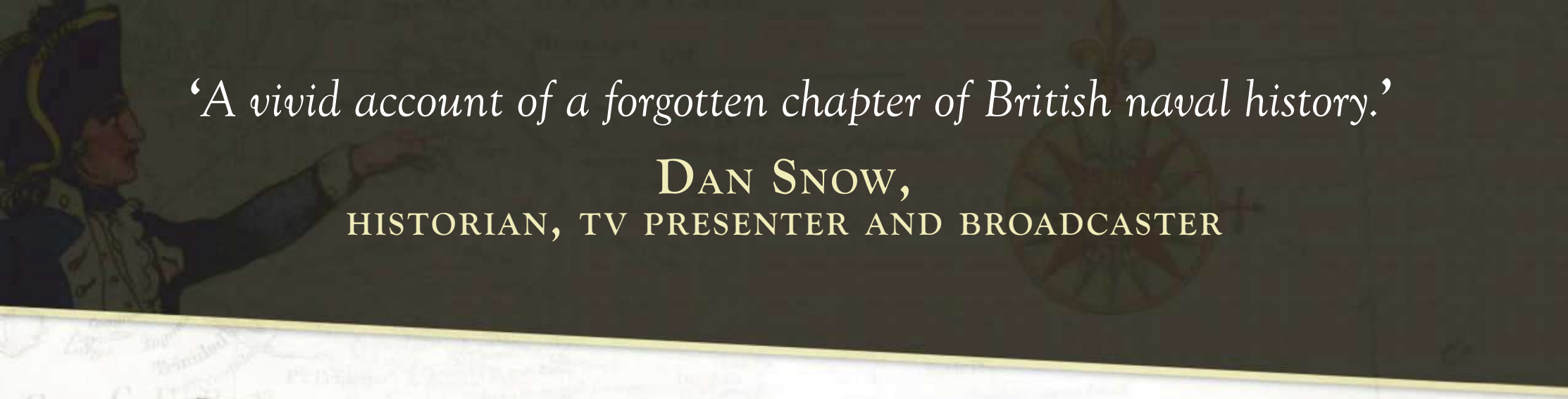
SAVED BY SCARVES

King Louis XV leaves his daughter's apartments in Versailles to return to his own rooms. As he walks towards his carriage, an assassin emerges from the shadows and drives a knife into the monarch's chest. But because Louis had wrapped up so warmly to guard against the cold, the knife's progress was stopped by the thick layers of clothing and did no serious damage.

20 January 1265

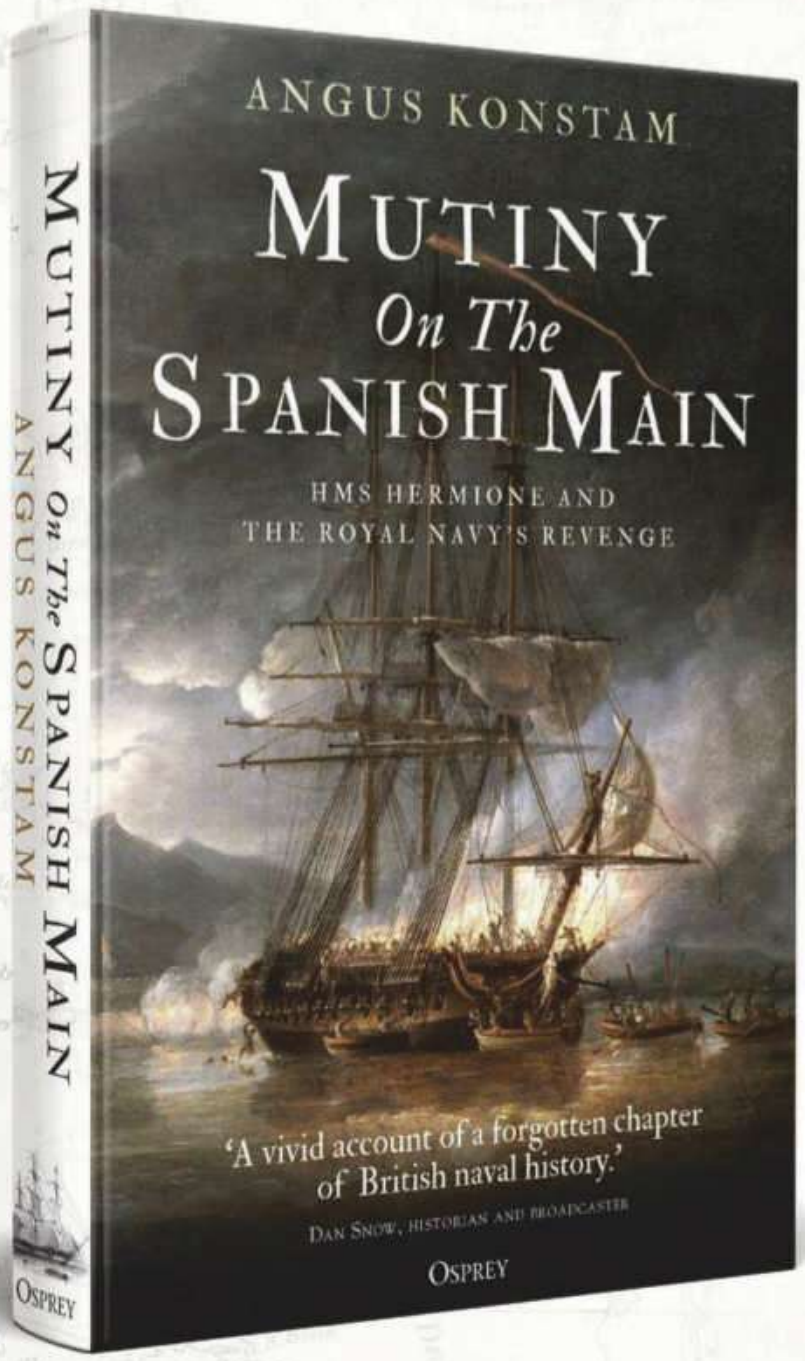
COMMONERS RULE

A new type of parliament meets at the behest of the rebel Simon de Montfort. This parliament differed from assemblies the King had called before as it included representatives of the cities and boroughs alongside knights representing their counties, rather than just the aristocratic and clerical elites. It is seen as an important step in extending the role of ordinary people in government.



‘*A vivid account of a forgotten chapter of British naval history.*’

Dan Snow,
historian, tv presenter and broadcaster



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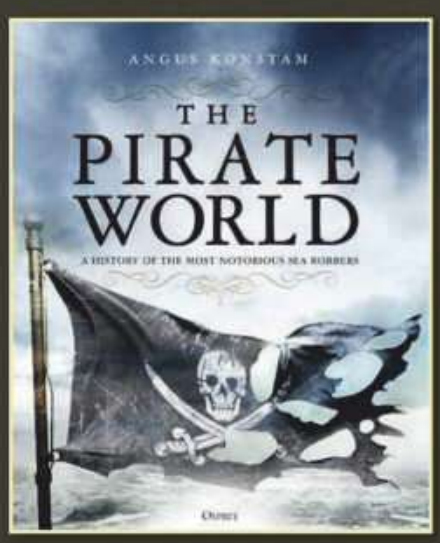
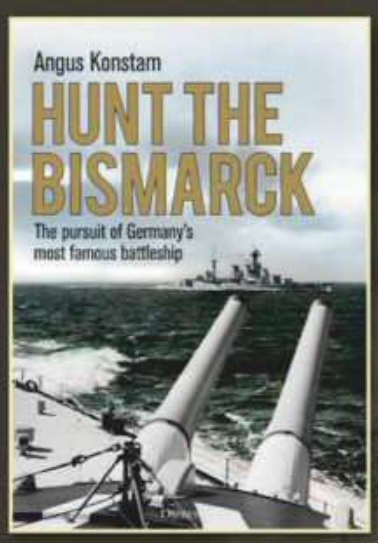
From renowned author and naval historian Angus Konstam, this fascinating title tells the dramatic story of HMS *Hermione*, a British frigate which was the site of the bloodiest mutiny in British naval history.

ALSO BY ANGUS KONSTAM





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The Children's Crusade

Words: Emma Slattery Williams

Thousands of young people supposedly marched in the Children's Crusade in a wave of religious fervour

WHAT WAS THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE?

The Children's Crusade is said to have been a failed popular (meaning not sanctioned by the Pope) crusade of 1212, mainly made up of children, with the intent of taking back Jerusalem. It is said to have been inspired by the crusades of Western European Christians to reclaim the Holy Land between the 11th and 13th centuries. The tale of the Children's Crusade is one that is caught between fact and fiction, though. There are few first hand sources to attest to this particular crusade, and those we do have may have been written well after the event or embellished.

WHAT WERE THE CRUSADES?

Between 1096 and 1291, there were a number of attempts by European Christians to reclaim the city of Jerusalem and the Holy Land from Muslim control, and solidify and expand their control of the region. A holy city for Christians, Jews and Muslims alike, Christian pilgrims would visit Jerusalem to worship at the site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

As various Muslim groups struggled for power, it became harder for Christians to visit Jerusalem, and, in 1095, Pope Urban II urged Christians to launch an expedition to free Jerusalem by force resulting in the First Crusade. After three years of intense fighting, Jerusalem was captured, and several Crusader states established. In 1147, another crusade began in response to the fall of the first crusader kingdom of Edessa, followed by a third expedition to retake Jerusalem, which had been captured by Muslim leader Saladin in 1187 many more crusades followed over the next century. Past historians have estimated that anywhere between one and nine million people, on both sides, lost their lives in these holy wars.

Pope Urban II called for Christians to reclaim the Holy Land in 1096, leading to the First Crusade

HOW DID THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE START?

Inspired by the faith filled warriors of earlier crusades, spontaneous outbursts of piety are said to have occurred in children and young adults in France and Germany.

They believed that, in supporting the crusader spirit, God would aid them in recapturing Jerusalem, and many began to march towards the Mediterranean.

WHO LED THEM?

Stephen of Cloyes in France, thought to have been a 12 year old shepherd, and Nicholas of Cologne in Germany, about whom even less is known. Between Easter and Pentecost of 1212, Nicholas is believed to have inspired thousands of followers – men and woman as well as children – to flock to him in Cologne after he claimed he had received orders from Jesus to retake the Holy Land. Nicholas, it is said, believed that the sea would part as it had done for Moses in the Biblical tradition, allowing the crusaders to safely reach Jerusalem.

The 13th-century *Chronicon*

GETTY IMAGES X2

universale anonymi Laudunensi, written by an anonymous monk, claimed that Stephen of Cloyes saw a vision of Jesus who tasked him with leading a crusade and delivering a letter to the French king, Philip II. It's possible that Stephen may have heard of Pope Innocent III's visit to nearby Chartres to gather support for his own crusading plans.

According to the chronicle, Stephen gathered followers in June 1212 and travelled to Paris for an audience with Philip, to ask for his blessing to launch a crusade. Stephen's arrival in the French capital may have coincided with a fair that attracted merchants from across Europe, and as many as 30,000 people allegedly flocked to Stephen's side. According to another chronicler, the intentions of these crusaders was not for war, but to recover the true cross – thought to be the remains of the wooden cross on which Jesus was crucified, the holy relic had been lost 25 years earlier at the battle of Hattin against Saladin.

WHO JOINED STEPHEN AND NICHOLAS?

Unlike those who had joined the papal-sanctioned crusades, these were not mercenaries or soldiers, but mainly children and young people. They were called *pueri* by 13th-century chroniclers, a term that meant children (specifically boys), which led people to call the movement the Children's Crusade – several chroniclers even note that some parents imprisoned their children in their homes to prevent them from joining. This doesn't mean that the whole army was necessarily made up of children, though, as *pueri* may have also have referred to young peasants or those without land.

The religious fervour that both Stephen and Nicholas inspired in their followers was seen as a threat to the established church. Local clergy were afraid that they were losing control of their congregations.

DID STEPHEN MAKE IT TO THE HOLY LAND?

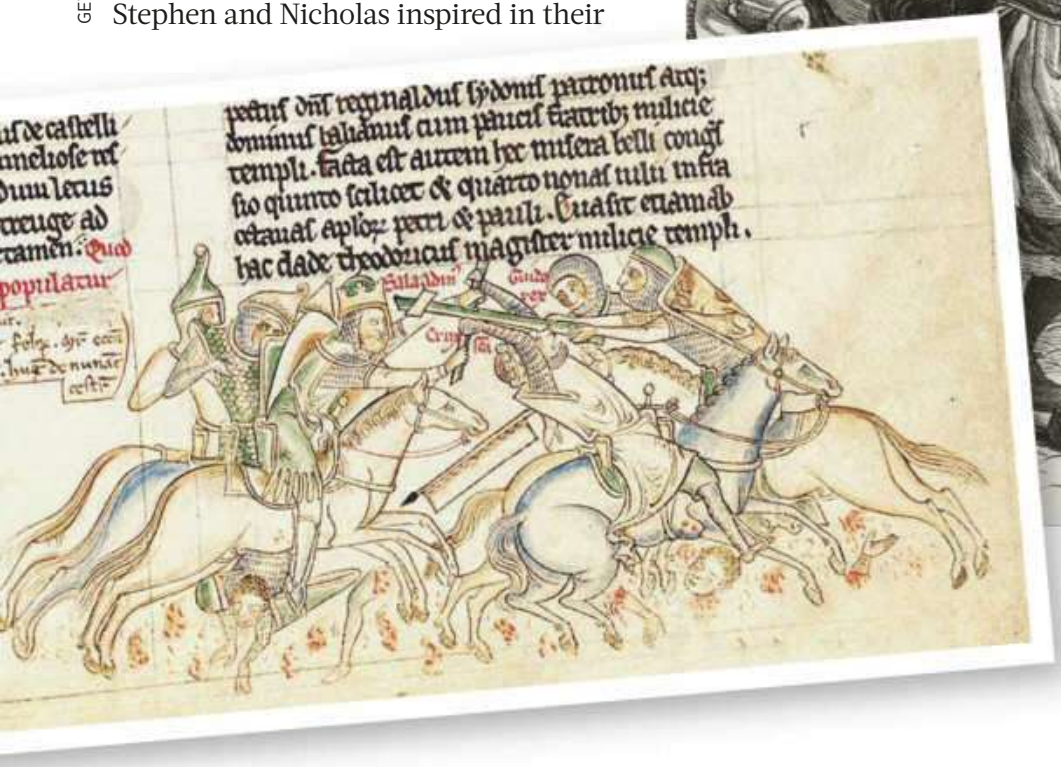
Philip II, concerned that Stephen's large group of followers could cause civil unrest demanded that the would be crusaders return to their homes. The Children's Crusade had ended before it had even begun. Or had it?

> "Nicholas believed that the sea would part, as it had done for Moses, allowing the crusaders to reach Jerusalem"

Another chronicler, Cistercian monk Alberic de Trois-Fontaines, extends Stephen's story further and suggests that he led some of his followers to Marseilles. Here, the crusaders are said to have been tricked by merchants and taken aboard their ships where some died when the ships sank, and others were taken as slaves to northern Africa. Those that survived, he writes, were sold to Muslim slavers. Attempts were made to force the children to renounce Christianity, but they stayed true to their faith and were killed "in various types of martyrdom" – apart from one who escaped to tell the story. Most historians, however, question the accuracy of Alberic's writings.

... AND WHAT ABOUT NICHOLAS?

Contemporary sources record that Nicholas's group reached Speyer in



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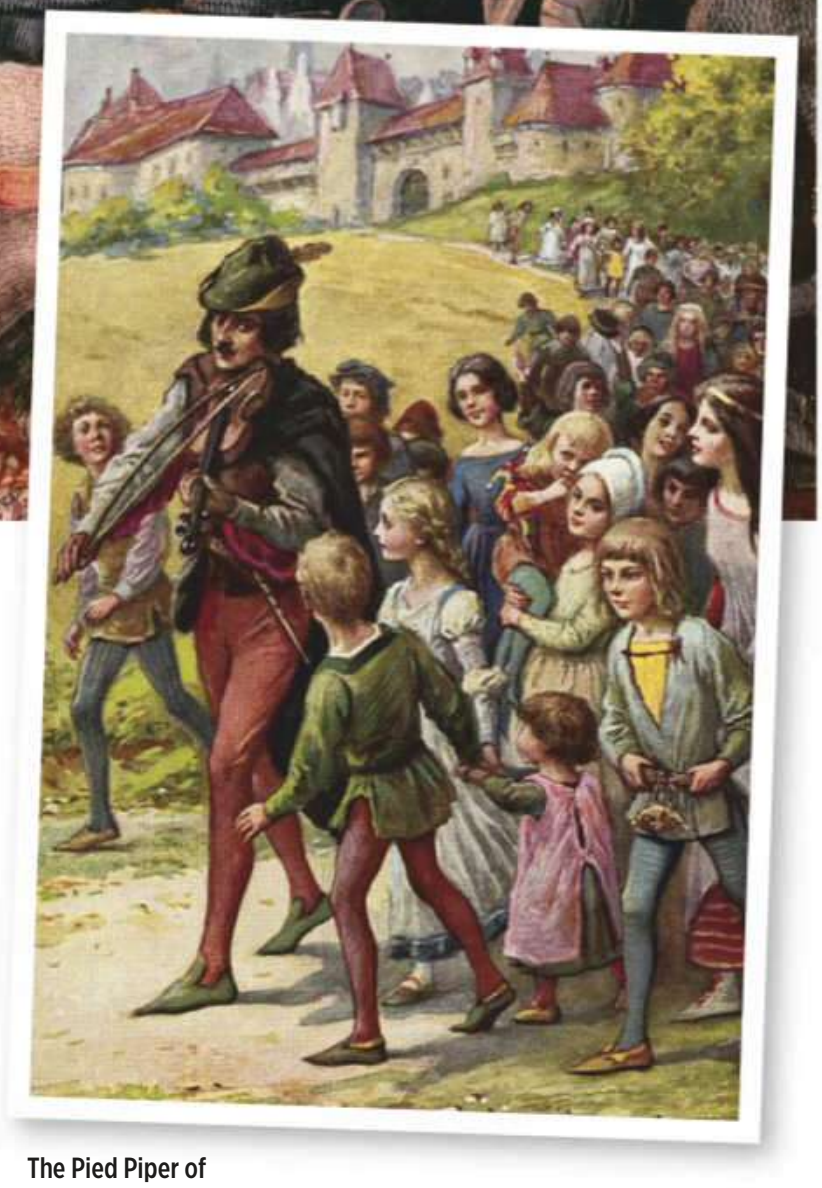
ABOVE: **A group of children, later known as the Cockhorse regiment, during the Children's Crusade**

LEFT: **Muslim leader Saladin, shown capturing the True Cross at the battle of Hattin, in the chronicles of 13th-century monk Matthew Paris**

At least one million people were thought to have been killed in the various crusades to Jerusalem and beyond



The Pied Piper of Hamelin is seen by some as a metaphor for death, while others suggest it is one for the Children's Crusade

southwestern Germany on 25 July 1212 whereupon they took the dangerous route south across the Alps towards the Mediterranean. Hungry, cold and exhausted, many would have died on this journey or given up and returned home. Those who persisted are said to have reached Piacenza in Italy on 20 or 21 August, having travelled 400 miles in just a month. Thousands more continued onwards to Genoa where they are said to have disbanded after the sea failed to part for them, as Nicholas had promised.

Although both of these crusades failed, they inspired many chroniclers to record their achievements of inspiring people to take on the holy cause, even without the Pope's urging or approval. The Fifth Crusade, which set out for the Holy Land in 1217, is said to have been partly inspired by the religious fervour of the Children's Crusade.

HOW IS THE PIED PIPER LINKED TO THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE?

In the German town of Hamelin, a folktale persists that, in 1284, more than a hundred of the town's children were taken away and never seen again. So the tale goes, the town had a rat problem and a rat catcher offered to help solve it. By playing his pipe he lured all the rats away to a river (where they drowned), but when he came to claim his payment, he was refused. He again played his pipe and this time it was the town's children who were seduced by his music; they were never seen again. Several theories exist as to what happened to the children of Hamelin, including one that suggests they left to embark on a holy crusade.

WERE THERE OTHER POPULAR CRUSADES?

In 1096, before the First Crusade had set out, a group of peasants and minor nobles marched across Germany and Hungary. On their journey towards Jerusalem, they committed massacres against Jews, especially in the Rhineland. They eventually reached Constantinople to aid the Byzantine Empire against the Seljuk Turks. Many were captured or killed in the fighting that ensued.

In 1251, another popular crusade was launched, from northern France with the intention of rescuing Louis IX, who had been captured during the Seventh Crusade. Thousands of peasants marched to Paris and some carried out attacks on monasteries and the clergy before eventually disbanding.

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4

Legendary leader Saladin is the focus of an episode of *You're Dead To Me* on BBC Radio 4. Listen at *bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07r6hjz*

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Oliver Cromwell (*left*) and Charles I (*right*) were the dominant figures during this turbulent era

GETTY IMAGES X5; ALAMY X3

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

THE CIVIL WARS

The Civil Wars of the 17th century tore the British Isles apart, pitting Parliament against the King, and brother against brother. In 1642, disagreements and mistrust between Charles I and his government boiled over into the unthinkable – years of bloodshed and devastation, and the legally sanctioned execution of an anointed monarch, something that had never happened in England before and has not been repeated since.

How did the British Isles reach the brink of war? Over the next 30 pages, with the help of historian Professor Mark Stoyle, we'll reveal how the Civil Wars unfurled, meet the key figures – including Charles I and Oliver Cromwell – and explore some of the major battles. We'll also take a look at how the New Model Army changed the course of the Civil Wars and look at how each side used propaganda to its advantage.

We begin over the page with a Q&A with Professor Mark Stoyle...

28 Everything you wanted to know about the Civil Wars
Professor Mark Stoyle provides an overview of this tumultuous period in the history of the British Isles

34 A nation divided
Chart the pivotal events of the Civil Wars

36 Road to war
By 1642, relations between Charles I and Parliament had completely broken down. We look at how frustration and mistrust boiled over into conflict

40 Charles I
Trace the Stuart king's path to the throne – and the execution block

42 Oliver Cromwell
A look at the life and career of the once little-known MP who went on to become Lord Protector

44 10 key battles
Explore the most significant military engagements of the Civil Wars

48 The New Model Army
We investigate how England's first professional fighting force turned the tide of war

50 Ready for battle
Who made up the royalist and parliamentarian armies, and how were they equipped on the battlefield?

51 Warrior women
Why the Civil Wars weren't purely a male domain

52 War of words
The Civil Wars witnessed an explosion of propaganda as both sides desperately tried to win favour with the people

54 Killing the King
How Parliament reached a previously unthinkable decision

54 What came next
What happened in the wake of Charles I's execution?

MARK STOYLE is professor of early modern history at the University of Southampton. He specialises in the Civil Wars and is one of the co-investigators in a project exploring the human cost of these conflicts

Historian Mark Stoyle believes war was likely from the moment Charles I tried to arrest five MPs in Parliament in January 1642

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CIVIL WARS

Professor Mark Stoyle answers key questions about the 17th-century conflict that tore the nation apart

INTERVIEW: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

Q: How popular was Charles I as monarch before the Civil Wars?

A: He certainly had his critics and I wouldn't say that he was a particularly popular king before the Civil Wars.

Charles came to the throne in 1625 and was almost immediately beset with problems – there were the issues with Parliament and MPs' refusals to grant him money; a whole series of foreign policy disasters, including a new, costly war with France; there was the intense hatred that was felt towards his favourite, the Duke of Buckingham; and there was the suspicion directed against Charles's Catholic wife, Henrietta Maria. So I think in those early years, he certainly wasn't a popular monarch and he faced quite a lot of hostility. During Charles's Personal Rule – from 1629–40 – I think you could argue that things got a little better and that the level of hostility towards him receded to a certain extent. But then, of course, everything went wrong again, starting with his waging war with the Scots in 1639 and 1640.

Charles, as a young man, at a feast in the court of James VI and I – a more relaxed court than his own would be

Q: How did Charles's style of kingship compare to that of his father, James VI and I?

A: They were very different on the surface, but not so different underneath. James VI and I was very familiar in courtly life and he delighted in drinking, jokes, horseplay and bawdiness – his court was a bit of a free-for-all in a way.

Charles was quite shocked by the laxness of his father's court, and when he became king, he deliberately instituted a new regime. Charles I's court was much more formal and dignified – the broad humour and practical jokes of his father's reign went straight out the door. So on the surface, things looked very different. But underneath, Charles's policies weren't all that different from James's and he, too, attempted to pursue a sort of middle-line policy within the church. I actually think a lot of what Charles did as monarch, he learnt at his father's knee.

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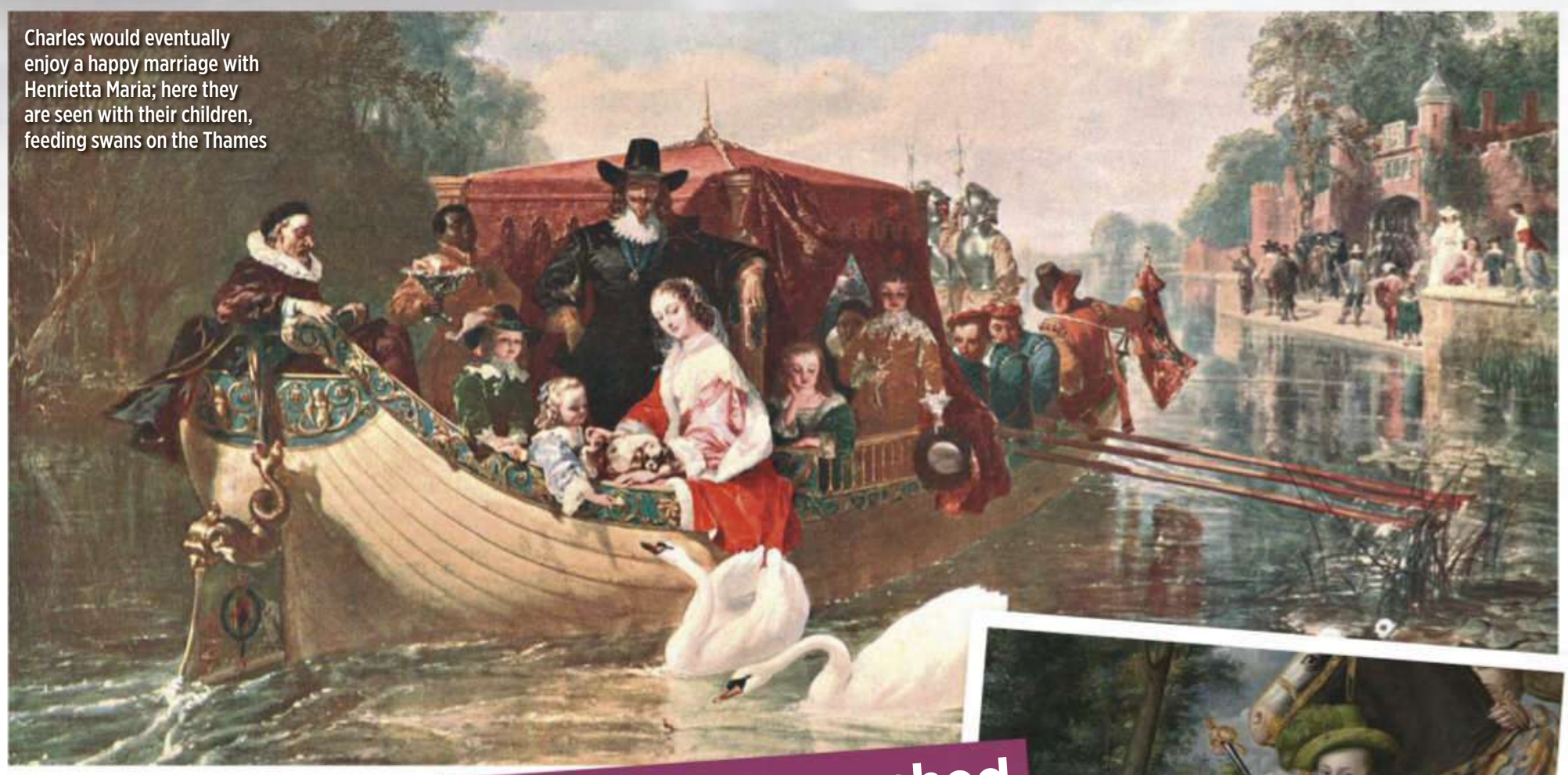

Charles would eventually enjoy a happy marriage with Henrietta Maria; here they are seen with their children, feeding swans on the Thames

Q: As a second son, Charles was never meant to rule. What impact did the death of his brother, Prince Henry, have on him?

A: I think one of Charles's problems was that, as a boy, he was very overshadowed by his older brother. Around six years older than Charles, Henry was tall, handsome and glamorous, and he was seen as a sort of Protestant hero. And when Henry died, in 1612, the nearly 12 year old Charles was suddenly pushed into the position of heir to the throne. He was much smaller and not nearly as physically robust as Henry, and he had a bad stutter so, on the face of it, there would have seemed a big contrast between the two princes.

I think one of the ways that Charles tried to impose himself in later life was through structures of order, dignity and formality, deliberately adopting a very different personal style to that of his late brother and father. I think the type of controlled environment he favoured at court is probably connected to that. So, yes, I do think the loss of his brother did play a very big part in Charles's life – he was really pushed into a role that he hadn't been expecting, or probably wanted, to inherit.

Q: How successful was Charles's marriage to Henrietta Maria?

A: This is one of the things that's very poignant about Charles. Initially the marriage, which took place by proxy just a month after he became king, was a disaster. I think that was partly because Charles had had no experience, as far as we know, with girls before his marriage. He was quite shy and when he married Henrietta, she was only 15. So, between them, they had no experience at all, really, with the opposite sex.

There was a lot of external pressure on the pair as well; the marriage had been set up for diplomatic reasons and the French alliance then went horribly wrong, which didn't help their relationship. But what is really interesting, I think, is that when Charles was grieving the execution of his close friend and favourite, the Duke of Buckingham, it was Henrietta Maria who became his main source of comfort. And from that point onwards, they had an incredibly happy marriage. Charles never took mistresses. In the years before the Civil Wars they were amazingly close, and had nine children together.

It always strikes me as sad that Charles's marriage to Henrietta Maria was probably the best and most successful thing in his life, but, from the point of view of his Protestant countrymen and women, it was this closeness to a Catholic princess that made people very suspicious. It was widely suspected that it was Henrietta Maria who was actually calling the shots in the relationship and the country.

"Charles was pushed into a role that he hadn't been expecting, or probably wanted, to inherit"

Charles's early life was overshadowed by his elder brother, Henry (*above*), and the comparison did him few favours as king

Q: How did Charles feel about ruling with Parliament?

A: I think Charles's views of Parliament changed over the course of his reign. In 1624, Charles, his father, and the Duke of Buckingham were very keen to push for a war with Spain, and Parliament, which was then pretty xenophobic and certainly anti-Spanish, was delighted with this. So, just before Charles came to the throne, there seems to have been a sort of unity of purpose between the monarchy and MPs that they all wanted to push for a war with Spain. But as soon as Charles became king and went to Parliament to ask for money to fight the Spanish, they were suddenly not so keen to give him large sums of money for a war. And I think he felt very betrayed by that.

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From Parliament's perspective, MPs felt very suspicious of Charles because he had married a French Catholic princess, and they also refused to grant him certain monies. So instantly that created a tension between the King and his MPs, which worsened during the 1620s. What started as quite a happy relationship, very rapidly turned sour.

In 1629, there was a famous episode where some MPs held the Speaker down in his chair and passed three resolutions against the King's government. And I think at that point, Charles became really quite frightened of Parliament and started to believe that Parliament was bent on seizing his power. He certainly thought that it would be a good idea to rule without Parliament for a while, which he did for 11 years.

The difficult question to answer is how long Charles intended to rule alone – after all, James VI and I had also ruled without Parliament, for seven years. It may be that Charles would have called Parliament back eventually, even if he hadn't needed them to grant him money, or he may have decided to rule alone indefinitely. It's really hard to judge.

Q: What sort of man was Oliver Cromwell?

A: Cromwell came from a gentry family in East Anglia, but we don't know a great deal about his early life. There are hints that he may have had some sort of depression when he was young, possibly because he was worried about whether his soul would be saved or not, and eventually he became a very devout Protestant. Cromwell was actually a pretty obscure MP at first and nothing close to a leader at the beginning of the Civil Wars.

What really brought Cromwell to prominence was military affairs. As soon as war broke out, he threw himself into the parliamentary cause and raised a very strong cavalry unit, known after the 1644 battle of Marston Moor as Cromwell's Ironsides. He became involved in a whole series of battles, engagements and skirmishes and gradually became more and more successful.

I'd say the crucial turning point for Cromwell's career was the battle of Marston Moor, where he was very successful and managed to spin his military achievements in letters and pamphlets, presenting himself as a key figure in the battle. But what really catapulted him to fame was Parliament's New Model Army, which was set up in 1645. Cromwell eventually emerged as the lieutenant general of the army's cavalry.

Q: Was Cromwell really the great military leader he's often made out to be?

A: Some of Cromwell's enemies have argued that he was just lucky, but I think that's probably a bit harsh. He was certainly determined and industrious, and utterly convinced that he was doing God's work.

Cromwell created a great spirit of camaraderie in the military units that he raised, and his men were obviously very attached to him. It has been pointed out that Cromwell was lucky in that the parliamentarian forces were so much better supplied than the royalist ones and so his troops were usually quite well paid – certainly much better paid than any of the King's soldiers – due to the parliamentary hold on London, by far the biggest city in England, seat of trade ▶

NOT JUST BRITISH

Though the wars took place in Britain, some of the fighters came from further afield

Prince Rupert – one of Charles's half-German nephews – leading the royalist cavalry at Edgehill

Prince Maurice (*above*) and his elder brother Prince Rupert were the sons of Charles's elder sister Elizabeth

Although we tend to see the Civil Wars as a conflict of the British Isles, involving men and women from England, Ireland, Wales and Cornwall (the latter was generally seen as its own distinct territory in the early modern period), several thousand people from across continental Europe and beyond were engaged in the conflict in one way or another.

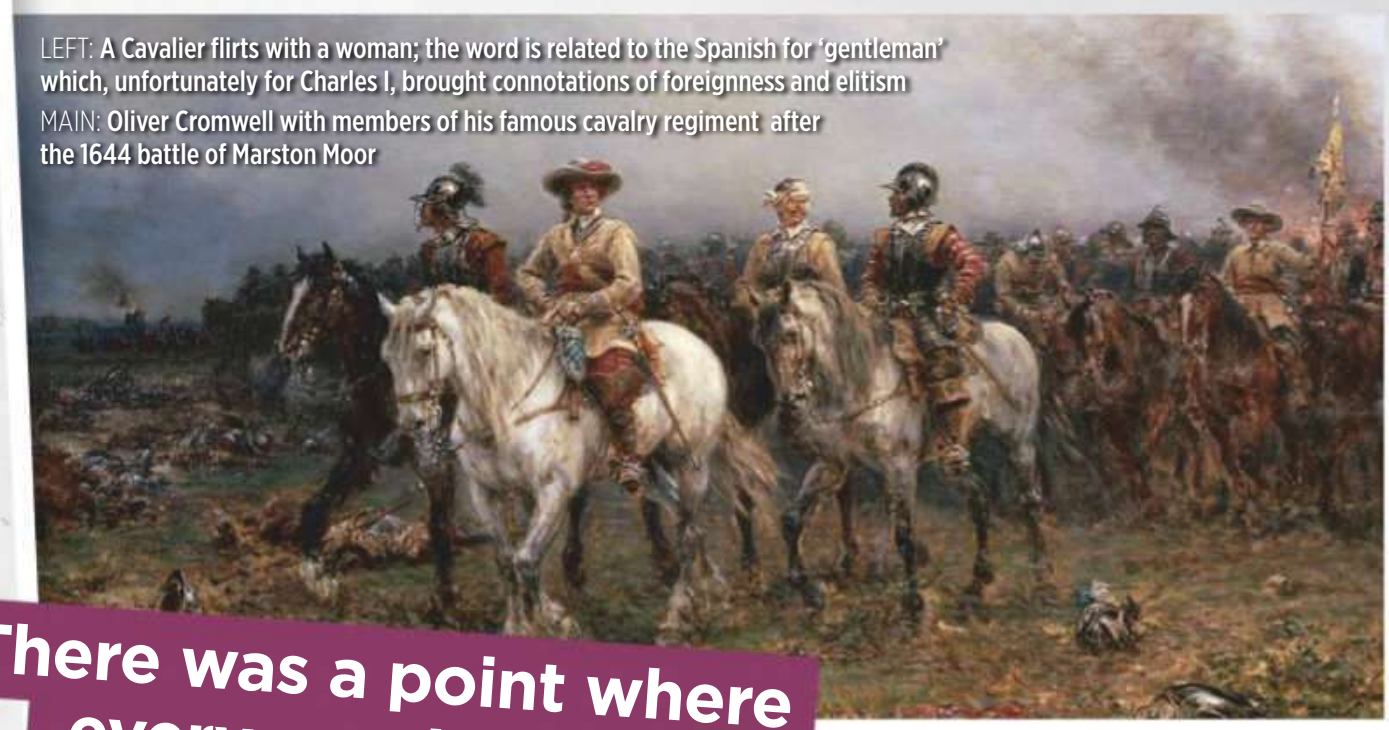
"There were many foreign mercenaries who travelled to England to fight for the Crown or Parliament", comments Mark Stoyle, "particularly on the side of the King. We know that Charles I raised several regiments of French soldiers, and there is evidence of Dutch and German fighters in the royalist and parliamentarian armies, as well as soldiers from as far away as the American colonies, North Africa, the Turkish lands – as they were then known – and even Mesopotamia.

Then there were Charles's own nephews. "Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice, who both assumed leading roles in the royalist armies were themselves half-German" says Stoyle. "There was a real mix of people involved in the fighting."

ABOVE: **Commons Speaker Sir John Finch is held down while resolutions against the King are read out in 1629; Charles would dissolve Parliament in favour of personal rule immediately afterwards**

RIGHT: **Charles I in Parliament in 1642, where he made an abortive attempt to arrest five MPs**

Re-enactors bring the 1644 battle of Nantwich to life



LEFT: **A Cavalier flirts with a woman; the word is related to the Spanish for 'gentleman' which, unfortunately for Charles I, brought connotations of foreignness and elitism**

MAIN: **Oliver Cromwell with members of his famous cavalry regiment after the 1644 battle of Marston Moor**

"There was a point where everyone thought the war would be over by Christmas"

◀ and a huge source of wealth. As a result of that, Cromwell was able to raise a very large cavalry force, which in turn helped him win various encounters.

Q: At what point do you think war became inevitable?

A: There are two extreme answers to that. The first is that civil war had become pretty much inevitable a century or so earlier, when Henry VIII pushed through his sort of half-cock reform of the Church in the 1530s; he had broken away from Rome, but he hadn't set a full Protestant church in its place. You could say from then onwards, England had been destabilised in religious terms and that there was always likely to be a final reckoning between conservative and radical Protestants.

The second more extreme view is that war wasn't inevitable until literally the morning of the battle of Edgehill, in October 1642. It's sometimes said that if Charles had suddenly died the night before the battle, both sides might still have been able to pull back from the brink of war at that point.

Those are the extreme views. If you're asking when did war become very likely, I would say it's after Charles's attempt to arrest five MPs in January 1642, after which he was forced to abandon London. At that point, you had the two opposing sides physically drawing apart, and from then onwards, I think war was very likely.

Q: How were the Civil Wars viewed at home and abroad?

A: Like most wars, lots of people were horrified from the start and most didn't want a war at all. There were some people, particularly young men, who were quite excited by the prospect of a war and at first, there were lots of volunteers for both King and Parliament; the armies both sides raised in 1642 were largely made up of volunteers. I think that was a point where, much like in World War I, everyone thought the war would be over by Christmas. But when it became clear after the first battle that the war was going to drag on, more and more men desperately tried to avoid fighting and both sides eventually had to conscript men to join them.

In terms of how the conflict was viewed abroad, I think there was initially a feeling of amazement and shock at what was going on, because England had mostly seemed a stable polity. For many foreign powers it was obviously very useful that England was engaged in a war within itself and that the English navy, which had been quite powerful in European waters, was suddenly inward looking again. But there was actually very little real foreign intervention in the Civil Wars.

Q: Where do the nicknames 'Roundhead' and 'Cavalier' come from?

A: The terms aren't modern and actually first spring up – in the context of the Civil Wars – in London, in late 1642/early 1643. Certainly, in the propaganda of the time, you can see images of long-haired, foppish Cavaliers pitted against sober-looking, shorthaired parliamentarians.

The word 'Cavalier' actually comes from the Spanish word '*caballero*' (gentleman) and it had connotations of foreignness, of being a trooper or an armed horseman. And it was also tied up with images of gentility. So it became a very handy propagandist tool for the parliamentarians, because once you start to call people Cavaliers, you invoke the idea of snobbish aristocrats who are looking down on ordinary people.

The word Cavalier also conjures up images of violent foreigners, particularly those associated with Spain, which was a country hated by Protestant men and women at the time and which was viewed as the heartland of European Catholicism. And, of course, there's also the other meaning of the word cavalier: of being reckless, high-handed, swaggering, drinking and so on – the antithesis, if you like, of the stout Protestant English man or woman.

The origin of the word 'Roundhead' is a little harder to trace and doesn't have any obvious roots in other words. The classic explanation is that it reflected the short hair of the London apprentices who were very prominent in their support of Parliament at the beginning of the Civil Wars. Another possible explanation, which I've always been interested in, is that, before the Civil Wars, if you were seditious and opposed the government, particularly in religious terms, you could have your ears lopped off as a form of punishment. There is one rather gruesome example of a man who had already had his ears cut down once to the stumps, but then had the remaining stumps cut off for the same crime!

I do sometimes wonder if the term Roundhead was almost created as a nasty joke – to invoke the image of seditious, Puritanical individuals who had had their ears cropped as a result of their hostility to the established church. ⊙

DID YOU KNOW?

A MOTHER'S LOVE

In 1644, Henrietta Maria gave birth to the royal couple's last child, Henrietta Anne, as her husband's enemies were closing in. Fifteen days later she was forced to leave her baby and flee to France. It would be two years before she saw her again.

GETTY IMAGES X4

A NATION D

The bloody battles and political struggles that tore families apart – and

1640

28 AUGUST

▶ After Charles I tries to impose a new prayer book on his Scottish subjects, they defeat his army at Newburn Ford and occupy Newcastle. In need of funds to pay them off, Charles recalls parliament.

1640

3 NOVEMBER

The new parliament meets in London. Before voting to give Charles any money, it demands several major constitutional reforms, along with the execution of Strafford – the King's hated first minister.

1641

23 OCTOBER

A Catholic rebellion breaks out in Ireland. However, Parliament is unwilling to let the King exercise his traditional right to raise an army to put down the rebellion, fearing that he might also use it against his English subjects.

1641

22 NOVEMBER

▶ The House of Commons narrowly passes its 'Grand Remonstrance', listing its numerous grievances with the King and calling for further restrictions on royal power and the authority of bishops.

1645

FEBRUARY

◀ The New Model Army is formed, giving the parliamentarians a national and professional army capable of turning the tide of the war.

1644

27 OCTOBER

The second battle of Newbury results in a draw. It is regarded as a disappointing failure by the parliamentarians, who set about reorganising their forces.

1644

2 SEPTEMBER

A disastrous invasion of royalist Cornwall forces the parliamentarians to surrender at the battle of Lostwithiel.

1645

14 JUNE

▶ The New Model Army crushes the royalists at Naseby, a few miles north of Northampton.

1645

10 SEPTEMBER

▼ Parliamentarian forces retake Bristol after a brief siege.

1646

5 MAY

Charles I surrenders to the Scots. The First Civil War soon ends.

1647

11 NOVEMBER

The King escapes captivity and manages to flee to the Isle of Wight. However, he is quickly recaptured and imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle where he makes plans for further royalist uprisings and a deal with the Scots.

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X4

IVIDED

left a monarch with his head on the block

1642

4 JANUARY

▼ Charles further polarises opinion by marching into the Commons and attempting to arrest five prominent MPs.

1642

22 AUGUST

Charles I raises his standard at Nottingham. Both the royalist and parliamentarian causes begin to assemble forces for battle.

1642

23 SEPTEMBER

Royalist forces emerge victorious after a brief skirmish at Powick Bridge near Worcester. It is the opening engagement of the Civil Wars.

1644

2 JULY

◀ Assisted by the Scots, parliament inflicts defeat upon the royalists at Marston Moor near York. They soon gain control over most of the north of England.

1643

25 SEPTEMBER

Parliament signs the 'Solemn League and Covenant' with the Scots. They agree to adopt the Presbyterian form of religion in England in exchange for vital Scottish military aid.

1643

20 SEPTEMBER

▼ The royalists lose a key battle at Newbury, Berkshire.

1643

26 JULY

Royalist forces led by Charles's nephew, Prince Rupert, seize the port city of Bristol, which has been held by a parliamentary garrison for several months.

1642

23 OCTOBER

The first major battle is fought at Edgehill in Warwickshire, which results in a draw. Charles heads to London but is unable to take the city. He retires to Oxford, which he makes his new capital.

1648

8 JULY

A Scottish army crosses the border and launches an invasion of England in support of the King. Meanwhile, several royalist risings elsewhere are quashed.

1648

17-19 AUGUST

Having made it as far south as Lancashire, the Scottish army is defeated at the battle of Preston. The short-lived Second Civil War is brought to a close.

1648

6 DECEMBER

Some 186 MPs sympathetic to the King are refused entry to the House of Commons in what becomes known as 'Pride's Purge' – a further 45 are arrested and 86 others leave in protest.

1649

30 JANUARY

▶ After having been found guilty of high treason and "other high crimes against the realm of England", Charles is beheaded at Whitehall.

WHY DID WAR BREAK OUT IN 1642?

Struggles over power, money and religion paved the way to seismic divisions between Parliament and King

WORDS: JONNY WILKES

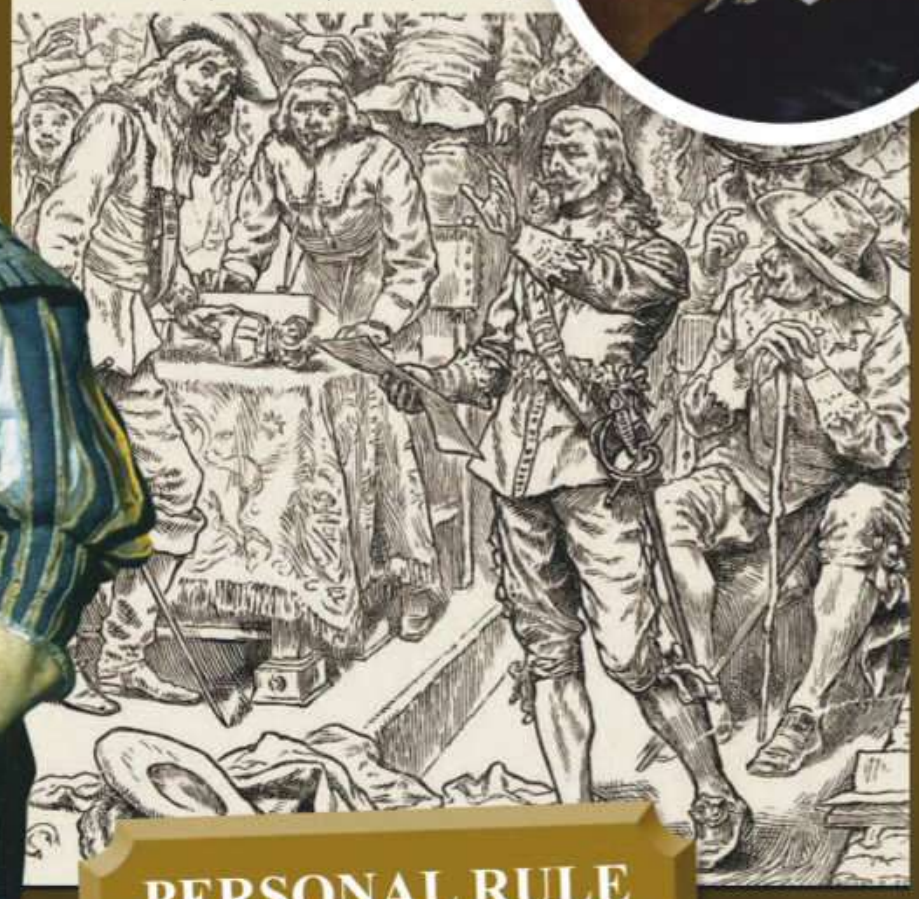
DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS

Charles I (*right*) had a fractious relationship with Parliament from the beginning of his reign, in 1625, not helped by his zealous belief in the 'divine right of kings'. Like his father James VI and I, Charles considered himself answerable only to God and so subject to no earthly authority. Such high ideals of royal power made him appear, at least, intransigent and arrogant and, at worse, autocratic.

Tensions mounted as monarch and MPs argued over foreign policy, finances and Charles's marriage to the Catholic Henrietta Maria. He further angered Parliament when he imposed a tax without their consent to pay for his war with France; then imprisoned without trial those who refused to pay, and implemented martial law and the billeting of troops. In 1628, Parliament issued a Petition of Right, seeking redress to these grievances. The move demonstrates how concerned MPs had grown about the prospect of a king who believed he derived his authority from God holding himself above the rule of law.

Charles I had an unshakeable belief in his own personal authority

MAIN: **Charles I dissolves Parliament in favour of ruling on his own**
INSET: **MP John Hampden was a notable victim of Charles's unpopular money making schemes**



PERSONAL RULE

In 1629, Charles dissolved his combative parliament and went on to rule for the next 11 years without one, a period known as the Personal Rule. Being without a parliament to raise taxes actually brought about a period of stability in England as Charles needed to end his costly wars with France and Spain, but he also had to exploit questionable means of making money, such as citing outdated laws to fine gentlemen or selling monopolies.

The most unpopular earner was 'ship money', a levy on coastal communities to fund the navy in times of war, which Charles issued multiple times and, from 1635, extended to inland towns. Those who did not pay faced trial, most notably Buckinghamshire landowner and MP John Hampden. The court's verdict in 1638 favoured the King, but only by seven votes to five, which emboldened opposition to ship money and struck a blow to Charles's authority.

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X1

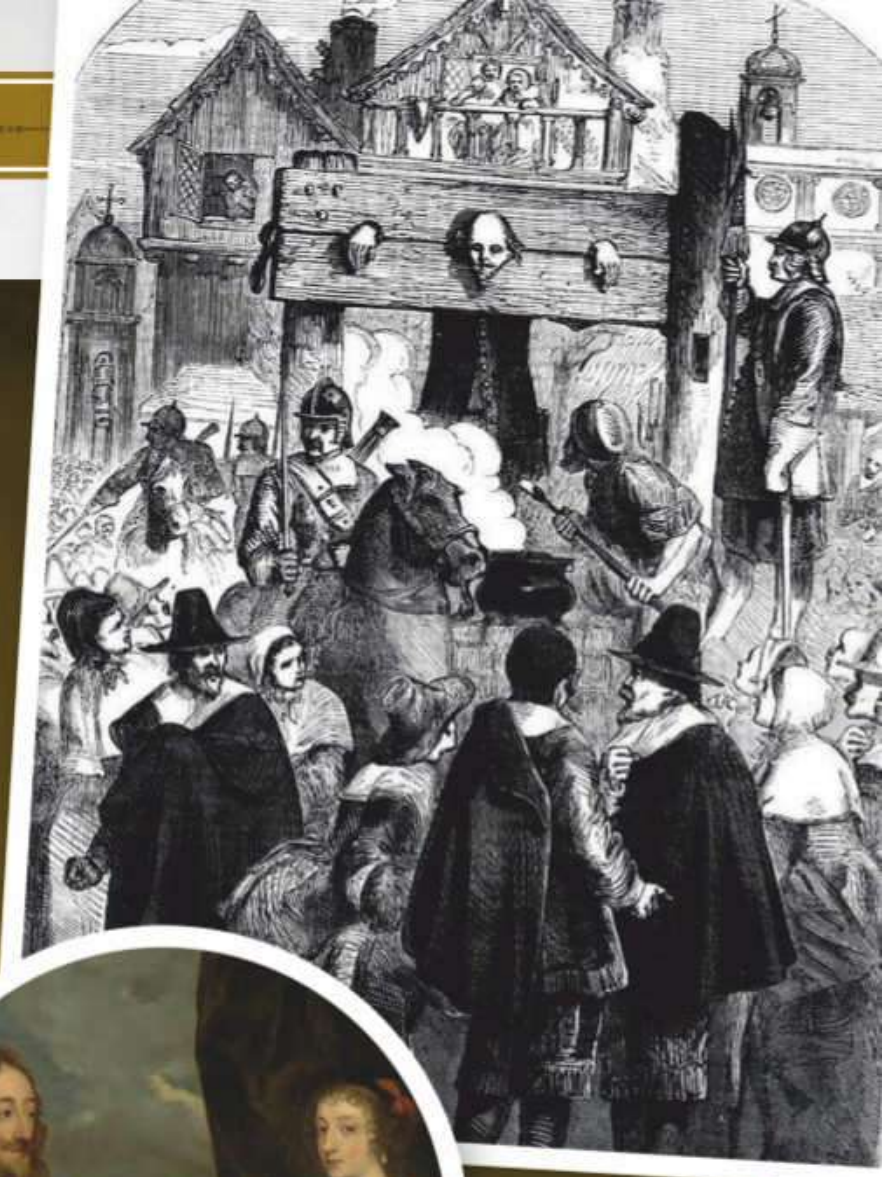
RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS

Of all the policies of Charles's Personal Rule, the religious reforms caused most alarm. Protestantism was the established religion and Catholics had been persecuted or driven underground since Tudor times. Shortly after his accession, Charles had married a French princess, Henrietta Maria. She openly practised her Catholicism, which raised suspicions among the largely Puritan members of parliament. Concerns were exacerbated as the King, while Protestant, favoured High Anglican worship.

Charles enthusiastically supported Archbishop of Canterbury William Laud's moves to establish a greater sense of ceremony and hierarchy in the Church of England, as well as to re-introduce decoration and finery to worship. This meant railed altars rather than communion tables; stained glass windows and candles; ornamental vestments; and the enforcement of ritual, such as kneeling when receiving the Sacrament – all of which smacked of popery to many Protestants.

Laud followed up his reforms with persecution of the Puritans, especially those who criticised him. He had the Puritans William Prynne, John Bastwick and Henry Burton imprisoned during the 1630s for writing pamphlets or giving sermons attacking what they saw as a move towards Catholicism, and had their ears cut off. Prynne's cheeks were also branded with "S L", meaning 'seditious libeller' – although he reclaimed it to mean '*Stigmata Laudis*', the 'marks of Laud'.

Those who opposed the reforms were tried in the Court of High Commission, convened by the King at will and wielding significant power, or the Star Chamber, an arm of the monarchy able to dish out fines and prison sentences. Both became symbols of royal oppression.



ABOVE: **William Prynne in the pillory, prior to his branding and imprisonment.**

LEFT: **Double portrait of King Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria**

Edinburgh market-trader Jenny Geddes didn't take the introduction of a new Book of Common Prayer at St Giles' Cathedral sitting down – she allegedly threw her stool at the dean

ENEMIES IN SCOTLAND

Charles wished his religious reforms to bring uniformity to the Church north of the border as well as England. But he was met with even more resistance by the mostly Presbyterian (an extreme form of Protestantism) Scots, who believed in a church government of representative assemblies and presbyteries, rather than the rule of bishops. The catalyst was Charles's attempt to introduce a new Book of Common Prayer for Scotland, in 1637, which caused a riot when it was first used in St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh – legendarily started when a market-trader named Jenny Geddes threw her stool at the dean.

In 1638, a large number of Scottish nobles and churchmen signed the National Covenant, an agreement affirming their commitment to Presbyterianism, determination to defend the Church of Scotland, or Kirk, and rejection of English governance. Although the document urged loyalty to the king, Charles regarded the Covenant as an unacceptable challenge.

Charles was resolved to crush this national uprising, but his campaign eventually ended in disaster when the Scottish covenanters defeated his army at the battle of Newburn, near Newcastle, on 28 August 1640. The Scots occupied Northumberland and County Durham, forcing Charles to pay £850 a day to stop them advancing further into England.

THE SHORT PARLIAMENT

During the Bishops' Wars, Charles found himself in desperate need of funds for his army and so, in early 1640, he summoned his first parliament for 11 years. It assembled on 13 April, but instead of acquiescing to the King's request for money, MPs expressed more concern with addressing grievances with the policies from the past decade of Personal Rule. It soon became clear that they would not support his war, and Charles dissolved the parliament after just three weeks, hence the name 'Short Parliament'. Charles resumed the war anyway, without parliamentary support, but suffered a decisive loss at Newburn, in August 1640.

A mob attacked Lambeth Palace, residence of Archbishop of Canterbury William Laud, shortly after Charles I dissolved the Short Parliament in May 1640

An emboldened Parliament ensured the execution of Charles's reviled chief minister Thomas Wentworth (*inset*)

THE LONG PARLIAMENT

A humiliated and reluctant Charles had no choice but to call another parliament in 1640 to ensure he had the money to pay off the Scottish Covenanters who were refusing to leave northern England. This so-called 'Long Parliament' assembled in November and immediately went on the offensive.

Led by the MP for Tavistock, John Pym, one of Parliament's first acts was to accuse Charles's much-hated chief minister Thomas Wentworth (the former lord deputy of Ireland and now Earl of Strafford), of high treason and ensure his execution. The emboldened MPs passed an act ensuring Parliament would meet every three years, even if not summoned by the King, and could not be dissolved without its own consent. They simultaneously abolished the Court of High Commission and Star Chamber, and declared the forms of taxation Charles had been exploiting, such as ship money, illegal.

In November 1641, Parliament passed its 'Grand Remonstrance', a list of grievances totalling 204 points detailing their opposition to Charles's policies during his entire reign. Not all MPs, however, agreed with Pym and his allies, especially as they pushed for yet more radical changes, including the abolition of bishops and further curbs on royal power. Parliament had become divided – indeed, the Grand Remonstrance had only narrowly passed. Charles gained support from some 148 MPs, who believed the Puritans were going too far or felt they could not go against their divinely anointed monarch.

Relations continued to worsen into 1642, when Parliament sent Charles the Nineteen Propositions, a list of demands, among them the need for Parliament to approve the King's ministers, supervise foreign policy and command the militia; and a reform to church government. When Charles rejected them all, there seemed to be no hope for reconciliation.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2

THE FAILED ARREST OF THE 'FIVE MEMBERS'

On 4 January 1642, Charles launched a drastic, if imprudent, strike against Parliament. Accompanied by around a hundred soldiers, he entered the House of Commons – an unprecedented move, seeing as a monarch had to be invited before going inside – and attempted to arrest five firebrand MPs.

The parliamentary leader John Pym and John Hampden, whose trial for not paying ship money had rallied opposition to the King's taxes, were among them. The others were: Denzil Holles, a vociferous voice for the bill to abolish bishops; Arthur Haselrig, a major figure in the impeachment of Charles's chief minister; and William Strode, who had been imprisoned for 11 years for his condemnations of the King's policies.

Charles asked to use the chair belonging to the Speaker, William Lenthall, before calling out the five names with no response. The Five Members, as they became known, had been warned of the King's arrival and had just escaped in time. Lenthall kneeled before the King, but refused to give them up. "May it please your majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as this House is pleased to direct me whose servant I am here," he said, declaring his allegiance to Parliament. Charles responded with, "I see the birds have flown," and retreated from the Commons empty handed. Days later, having failed to force the surrender of the Five Members, the King left London with his family.

Charles I entered Parliament to demand the surrender of five troublesome MPs – only for the Speaker to tell him that he hadn't seen them

IRISH REBELLION

Protestant settlers are massacred by local Catholics at Portadown in Northern Ireland in this image from 1641; atrocities were committed on both sides of the religious divide

Since October 1641, a rebellion had been raging in Ireland – native Irish Catholics against English and Scottish Protestant settlers, many of whom were killed on both sides. Beginning in Ulster, the rebellion was partly born out of Irish fears that, with the Scottish Presbyterians and English Puritans riding high, they would soon force the King to adopt much more intolerantly anti-Catholic policies in Ireland. The rebels even claimed they were acting with Charles's blessing, which served to fuel the rumours of the King being a secret Catholic.

In fact, Charles was in rare agreement with Parliament that an army had to be sent to suppress the rebellion, but they disagreed over who should command it. John Pym and his allies in Parliament believed that if the King put himself at the head of the army, he might turn it against them. In the end, some troops were sent across the Irish Channel, both from England and Scotland. With no cooperation of synchronised tactics, though, the conflict continued for 11 years causing a massive loss of life and devastation in Ireland. Meanwhile, in England itself, both King and Parliament were by now raising armies of their own, and both sides refused to back down. ⊙

CHARLES I

19 NOVEMBER 1600 – 30 JANUARY 1649

The second son of James VI and I of Scotland, England and Ireland, Charles I was never supposed to become king. His reign would split the nation apart and give him the unwanted distinction of becoming the only English monarch to be executed

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

King Charles I greets three of his children shortly before his execution in January 1649

CHARLES'S RISE

A shy, sickly child, Charles lived in the shadow of his accomplished older brother, Henry Frederick. Henry was extremely popular, even eclipsing his father, James VI and I, on occasion, but at 18 he died, probably from typhoid fever, and Charles became heir apparent shortly before his twelfth birthday.

In 1625, after James's death, Charles ascended the throne and clashed with Parliament immediately. Charles had an unshakeable belief in his divine right to rule a right, he believed, had been granted by God. He also aroused suspicion in reformed religious groups, who thought Charles leaned towards Catholicism a fear only confirmed by his marriage to the French Catholic princess Henrietta Maria.

Between 1625 and 1629, the King dismissed Parliament three times and eventually chose to rule alone an 11 year period known as the Personal Rule. Charles I's opponents believed that he showed all the signs of being a tyrannical and absolute monarch.

CHARLES'S FALL

Following several attempts by Charles I to assert his power over the Church of Scotland – most notably the imposition of a new Book of Common Prayer, in 1637 – the Bishops' Wars began. These were the first of several connected civil wars, which would involve all three of Charles's kingdoms – England, Scotland and Ireland – and eventually culminate in his own downfall.

The unrest in Scotland forced Charles to recall Parliament in order to raise funds to send the Scots back north. However, in November 1641, a Grand Remonstrance was passed by the Commons and presented to the King – laying out all of Parliament's grievances against him.

With Charles also under pressure to surrender control of his army, tensions between the two sides reached boiling point in January 1642 when the King attempted to arrest five prominent MPs. By August, with relations now having completely broken down, Charles raised his royal standard in Nottingham and declared war on Parliament.

After four years of bitter fighting, the King surrendered to the Scots in 1646, who, in turn, came to an agreement with Parliament and handed him over for a large sum of money. Held in captivity for several months and still refusing to accept Parliament's authority, Charles managed to escape to the Isle of Wight, but was again arrested and imprisoned. He now resorted to allying himself with the Scots – his former enemies – and in March/April 1648, a second civil war began. Yet this conflict was to prove short-lived, with the Scots and royalist forces facing a final, decisive defeat later that year.

The commanders of Parliament's New Model Army and their supporters among the MPs now believed that peace could not be achieved while the King was still alive, so he was put on trial for high treason and found guilty. On 30 January 1649, after being given just three days to say goodbye to his children, Charles was led through the Banqueting House in Whitehall and on to a wooden scaffold. After a short prayer and speech he was beheaded.

3 KEY ROYALISTS

QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA 1609–69

The daughter of Henri IV of France, Henrietta married Charles I in 1625 when she was just 15. Her Catholic faith saw her refuse to be crowned by a Protestant prelate, which caused tension within the royal court and with the public. During the Civil Wars, Henrietta Maria spent much time on the Continent raising much-needed funds and military support for her husband's cause.

PRINCE RUPERT 1619–82

Prince Rupert of the Rhine was the son of Frederick V of the Palatinate and Elizabeth Stuart, sister of Charles I. A talented cavalry commander, Rupert oversaw many victories during the early years of the Civil Wars. The young prince was banished from England after surrendering at Bristol in 1645, but he eventually returned and was made a naval commander by his cousin Charles II.

THOMAS WENTWORTH, EARL OF STRAFFORD 1593–1641

One of the King's key advisors, Strafford was unpopular with Parliament. He was put on trial, accused of advising the King to use an Irish army against his opponents in England; a bill was passed so that no evidence was needed to find him guilty. Against his conscience but in fear of unrest, Charles signed the bill and Strafford was beheaded.

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X1

Charles I was a passionate art collector. He became a patron of several prominent artists, including Anthony van Dyck, who painted this portrait of him

DID YOU KNOW?

THE HOUSE OF STUART

Though he may not have completed his reign, two of Charles's children and three of his grandchildren would eventually rule England – Charles II, James II, William III, Mary II and Anne.

"Charles showed all the signs of being a tyrannical and absolute monarch"

DID YOU KNOW?

IT DIDN'T END WELL

Cromwell's head was displayed on a spike above Westminster Hall for at least 20 years. After allegedly being blown down in a storm, it remained in a private collection until 1960, when it was buried at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

"Cromwell believed that God supported his cause and that he had been chosen"

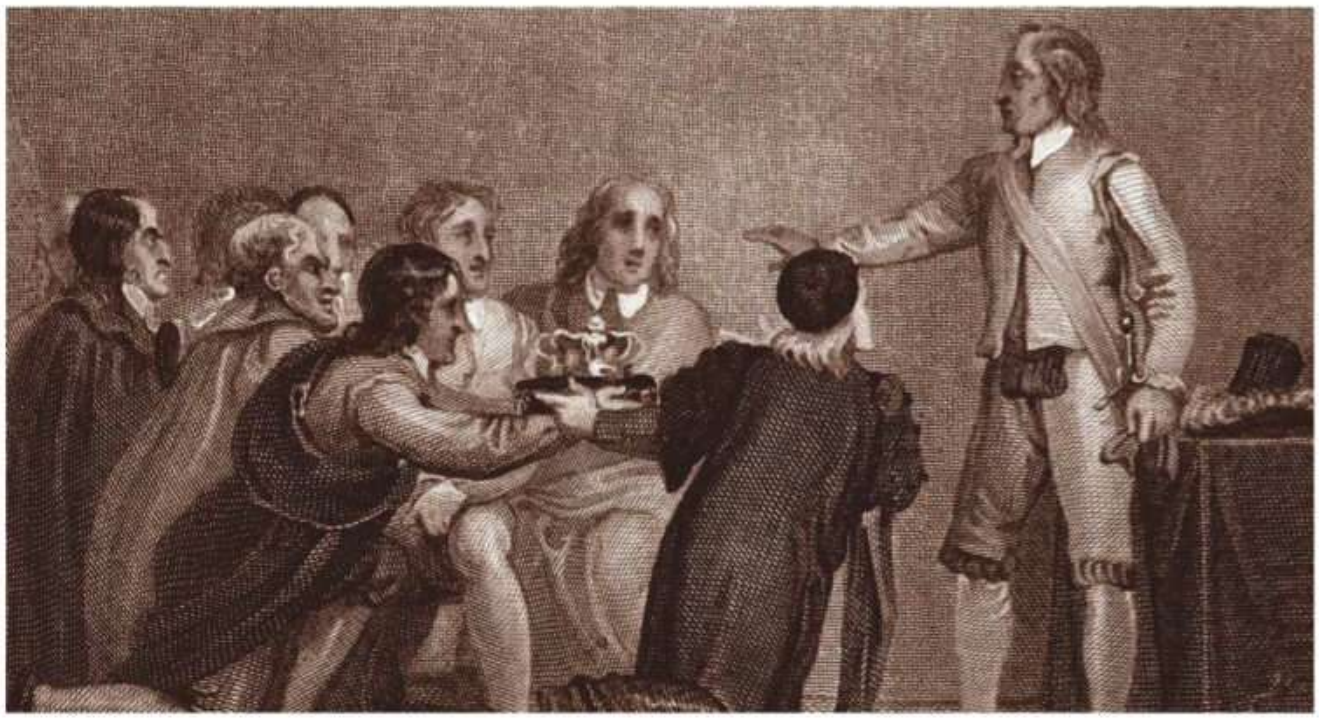
Oliver Cromwell – who had fought so hard to bring down the monarchy – nearly became king himself

OLIVER CROMWELL

25 APRIL 1599 – 3 SEPTEMBER 1658

A talented commander in the parliamentarian forces, Oliver Cromwell would climb the ranks to become the de facto ruler of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland – a king in all but name

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS



Despite rejecting the official offer of the crown, in 1657, Cromwell was a king in all but name

CROMWELL'S RISE

Born in Huntingdon, in what is now Cambridgeshire, Oliver Cromwell's family had modest wealth and were part of the landed gentry – his father, Robert, had been an MP in Elizabeth I's parliament of 1593. Through his father, Oliver was also distantly related to Henry VIII's doomed adviser Thomas Cromwell.

When he married Elizabeth Bourchier, whose family were active Puritans, Cromwell was inspired to become one himself, and became very devout. Like many Puritans, he was convinced that the Church of England was too influenced by Catholicism. He is believed by some to have studied law at Lincoln's Inn although there is no evidence of this before becoming the MP for Huntingdon in 1628 and again in 1640.

It wasn't until Cromwell reached his 40s that he began his military career. He initially led a cavalry troop when Charles I declared war on Parliament in 1642, but within a year he had been promoted to colonel and taken command of an entire regiment. Despite lacking formal military training, Cromwell was a skilled leader and won many vital victories. At the battle of Preston in 1648, the Second Civil War was won when he crushed the Scots and removed all hope for the royalist cause. Similar to Charles I's faith in his divine right to rule, Cromwell believed in his own providence – that God supported his cause and that he had been personally 'chosen' for this fight against the King.

In January 1649, Cromwell was one of 59 men who signed Charles I's death warrant, and he quickly emerged as an important member of the so-called 'Rump' parliament, made up of a small group of MPs. England was now a commonwealth, with a Council of State in place of the monarchy.

CROMWELL'S FALL

Between 1649 and 1650, Cromwell undertook a campaign in Ireland to obliterate any royalist support for the exiled Charles II – son of Charles I. Thousands were killed at massacres in Wexford and Drogheda, and many Protestants were settled on confiscated land. Cromwell's last action on the field came at the battle of Worcester in 1651. Here, the Civil Wars finally came to an end with a clear parliamentarian victory over Charles II's troops, the majority of whom were Scottish.

In 1653, Cromwell disbanded the Rump parliament and he became lord protector – the head of state. After quarrelling with Parliament, he ruled through his major generals, turning England into a quasi-military dictatorship.

Under Cromwell, greater freedoms were given to Puritans and laws brought in to improve morality. This included closing theatres and imposing stricter alcohol legislation. The rise of Puritanism also saw the celebration of Christmas virtually banned, along with the introduction of monthly fast days, ensuring that religion was always at the forefront of people's minds.

In 1657, the Second Protectorate Parliament suggested naming Cromwell as king, but he refused and died of natural causes the following year. Cromwell was succeeded by his son, Richard, but the Protectorate swiftly collapsed, and the monarchy was restored in 1660.

Charles II ordered that Cromwell be exumed and 'punished'. His body endured an 'execution' for treason and his head displayed above Westminster Hall.

3 KEY PARLIAMENTARIANS

JOHN PYM
1584–1643

MP for Tavistock, John Pym was leader of the King's opponents in the House of Commons until his death. Pym was one of the MPs that the King attempted to have arrested, leading to the declaration of war in 1642. Pym was buried in Westminster Abbey, but after the Restoration his body – along with other parliamentarian leaders – was thrown into a pit at a nearby church.

SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX
1612–71

Captain general of the New Model Army, Thomas Fairfax was a valued commander who led the parliamentarians to crucial victories at Marston Moor and Naseby, before becoming overshadowed by the up-and-coming Cromwell. Fairfax opposed the execution of the King but resigned in 1650 as he couldn't support Cromwell's war against Scotland. In 1660, he assisted with the restoration of Charles II.

ROBERT DEVEREUX, 3RD EARL OF ESSEX
1591–1646

Son of the 2nd Earl of Essex – a favourite of Elizabeth I who was executed for treason – Robert Devereux was the first leader of the parliamentarian army. He was a successful leader but suffered a humiliating defeat at Lostwithiel and resigned his command in 1645. He continued to sit in parliament, supporting the Presbyterian faction.

GETTY IMAGES X6

10 KEY BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WARS

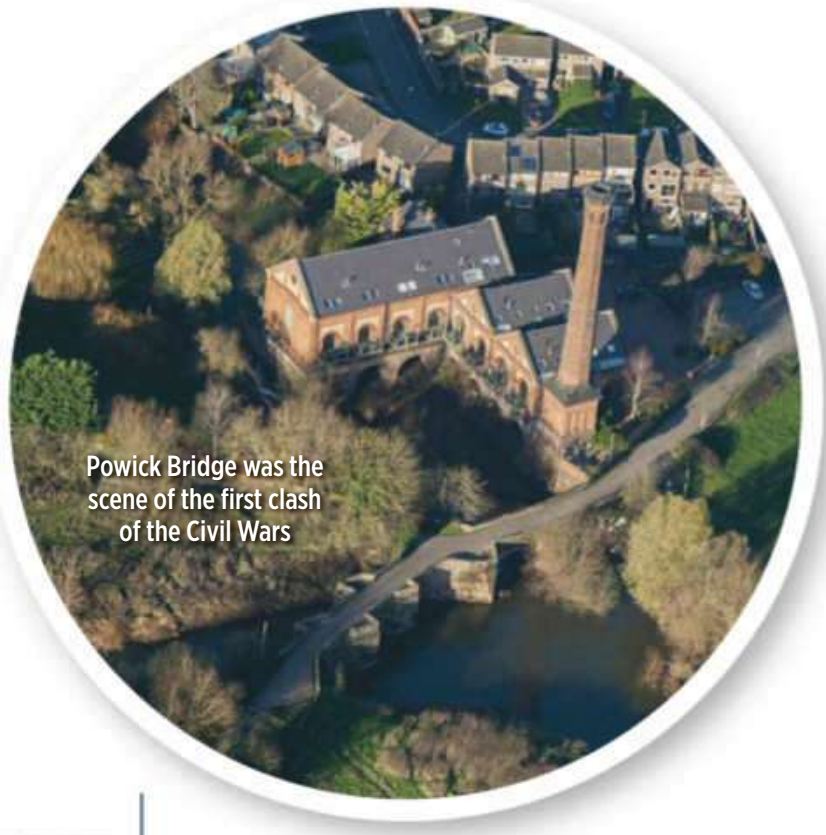
We explore some of the most significant battles of the Civil Wars – pitting the King against Parliament, and splitting the nation apart

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

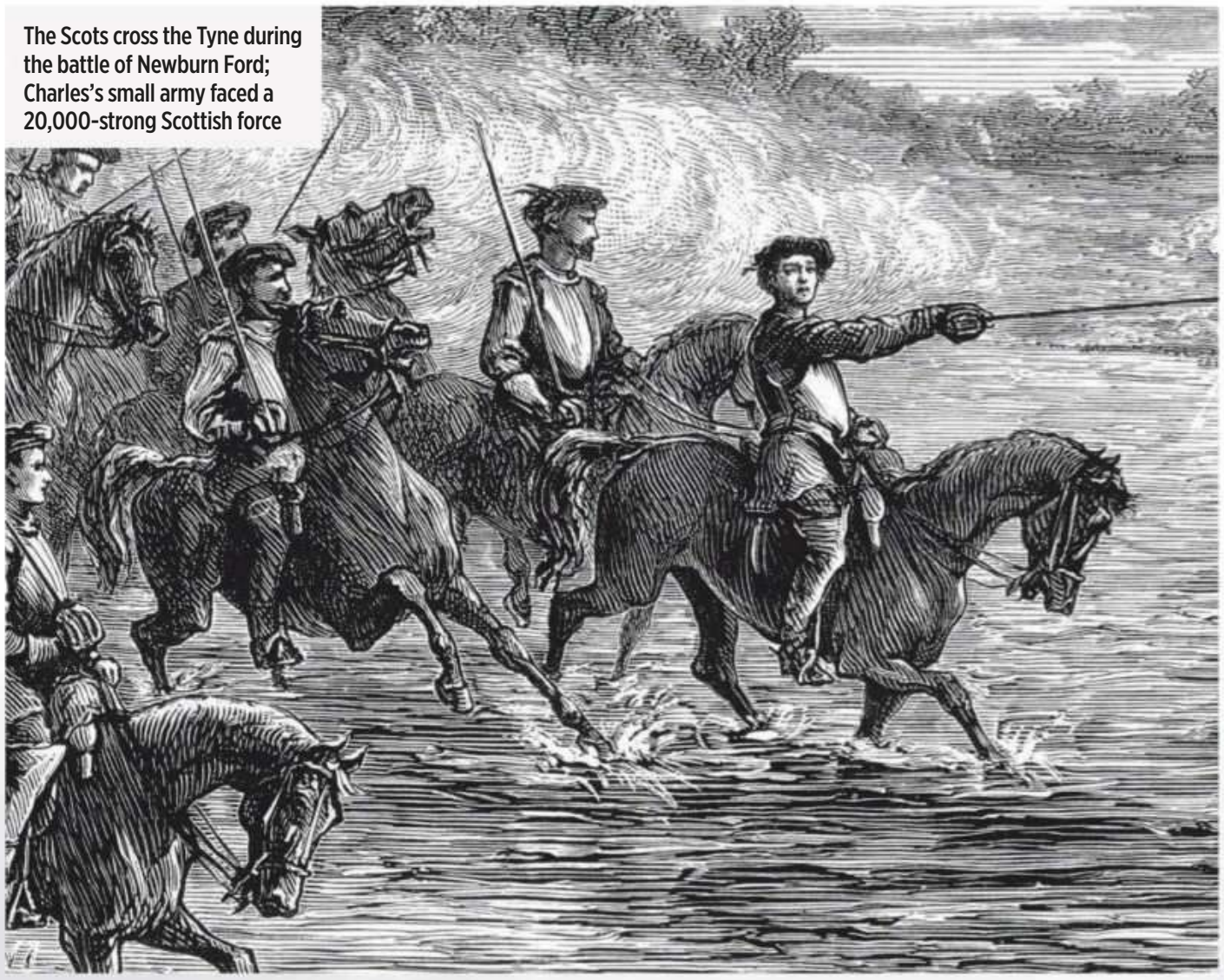
NEWBURN FORD AUGUST 1640

Between 1637 and 1640, Charles I had tried to enforce Anglican religious observances on the (Presbyterian) Church of Scotland, including a new prayer book. National Scottish resistance and defiance of the King's orders resulted in the so-called Bishops' Wars of 1639-40 – a precursor to the Civil Wars. Parliament refused to support the King, financially or militarily, in his war with Scotland, so Charles was forced to send commander Edward Conway, 2nd Viscount Conway, to the Scottish border with only the relatively small English force he had managed to gather.

On 28 August 1640, just outside Newcastle at Newburn Ford, the King's troops faced a 20,000-strong Scottish covenanter army – Scottish Presbyterians who, in 1638, had signed a covenant opposing attempts to impose English liturgical practice and church governance on Scotland. Charles's English forces were unprepared, outnumbered, and easily defeated. A few days after the battle, the Scottish occupied Newcastle; Charles was forced to call a parliament – eventually to become known as the Long Parliament – in order to raise money to pay his own army and to buy off the Scots. The Scots finally marched out of Newcastle in August 1641.



Powick Bridge was the scene of the first clash of the Civil Wars



The Scots cross the Tyne during the battle of Newburn Ford; Charles's small army faced a 20,000-strong Scottish force

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3

POWICK BRIDGE SEPTEMBER 1642

The first military action between Crown and Parliament took place in Worcestershire, on 23 September 1642, following Charles I's official declaration of war the previous month.

Royalist Sir John Byron, who was escorting a convoy of valuables between Oxford and Shrewsbury, sought refuge in Worcester to avoid the parliamentarian advance guard that had been dispatched to seize the wealth. Alerted to the danger, Prince Rupert, the King's nephew, was sent with a force of around 1,000 cavalry to support Byron, as parliamentarian forces sought to block Byron's route out of the city. The resulting skirmish took place on and around Powick Bridge, about two miles outside Worcester. Prince Rupert's experienced troops routed the parliamentarian forces, and Powick became a major propaganda victory for the royalist cause.

LEFT: Members of the Sealed Knot re-enact the battle of Edgehill

MAIN: The royalist war council on the eve of the battle of Edgehill, as imagined by Charles Landseer in this 1845 painting. Presaging his ultimate defeat, Charles is depicted gazing at the maid serving bacon rather than the map

MAJOR BATTLE

EDGEHILL

OCTOBER 1642

The first major pitched battle of the Civil Wars battle took place four weeks after Powick Hill, when parliamentarian Captain-General, Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex, seized an opportunity to halt the King's forces as they marched to London from Shrewsbury, in October 1642. Both armies had around 15,000 men, but the parliamentarian cavalry was no match for the royalist horsemen, commanded by Charles's nephew Prince Rupert. A royalist win seemed inevitable.

Rupert, believing victory was close at hand, led a cavalry charge on the parliamentarian baggage train, leaving the royalist troops vulnerable; what was left of the parliamentarian cavalry made light work of the royal infantry. By the next day neither side seemed keen to continue the fighting, so the battle ended in an indecisive draw. The road was now clear for the King to head to the capital, but he decided to take Banbury on his way, allowing Essex to reach London first. Charles settled in Oxford for the winter, which would become his base for the rest of the war. Some historians suggest that if Rupert had remained on the battlefield and aided the infantry, a royalist victory at Edgehill could have ended the war.

"If Rupert had remained on the battlefield, a royalist victory could have ended the war"

ADWALTON MOOR

JUNE 1643

On 30 June 1643, parliamentarian commander Ferdinando, 2nd Baron Fairfax, and 3,500 men battled 10,000 royalist troops under the Earl of Newcastle. After Newcastle advanced on the parliamentarian stronghold of Bradford, Fairfax marched out in its defence; the two armies met on Adwalton Moor in Yorkshire. Newcastle's pikemen and cavalry carried the day for the royalists, even after it seemed the parliamentarians had gained the upper hand. It was a decisive encounter, granting Charles control of northern England, which the royalists held for the remainder of 1643.

As the parliamentarians suffered ever more defeats, they looked north for aid and made a deal with the Scottish covenanters – the covenanters would provide military aid in exchange for the adoption of a Presbyterian form of worship in England, as was in Scotland. The tide of war was turning.

MAJOR BATTLE

NEWBURY SEPTEMBER 1643

After successfully lifting a royalist siege on Gloucester, (which had lasted from 10 August–5 September) parliamentarian commander Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex, attempted a retreat to London, hotly pursued by royalist forces. Essex's troops were some of the only parliamentarian forces in the field at the time and they desperately needed supplies. But the royalists had blocked the road to London, and so the two armies, each around 15,000 strong, clashed at Newbury on 20 September 1643.

After a day of heavy fighting – one the royalists had spent on the back foot, following a surprise dawn assault by the parliamentarians – there was no clear victor and more than 1,000 dead on each side. That night, keenly aware that they were running low on gunpowder, the royalists decided to allow Essex his path east. He continued his march to London, unmolested, the next day and entered the capital to cheering crowds – while the royalists were left to tend to their wounds with a crushing sense of what could have been. Many historians see this battle as a missed opportunity for Charles to have finished the parliamentarians for good.

Another battle was fought near here in October 1644 – though that encounter gave neither side a decisive advantage.

The 1643 battle of Newbury is considered a high point of Essex's command – he was later eclipsed by Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell

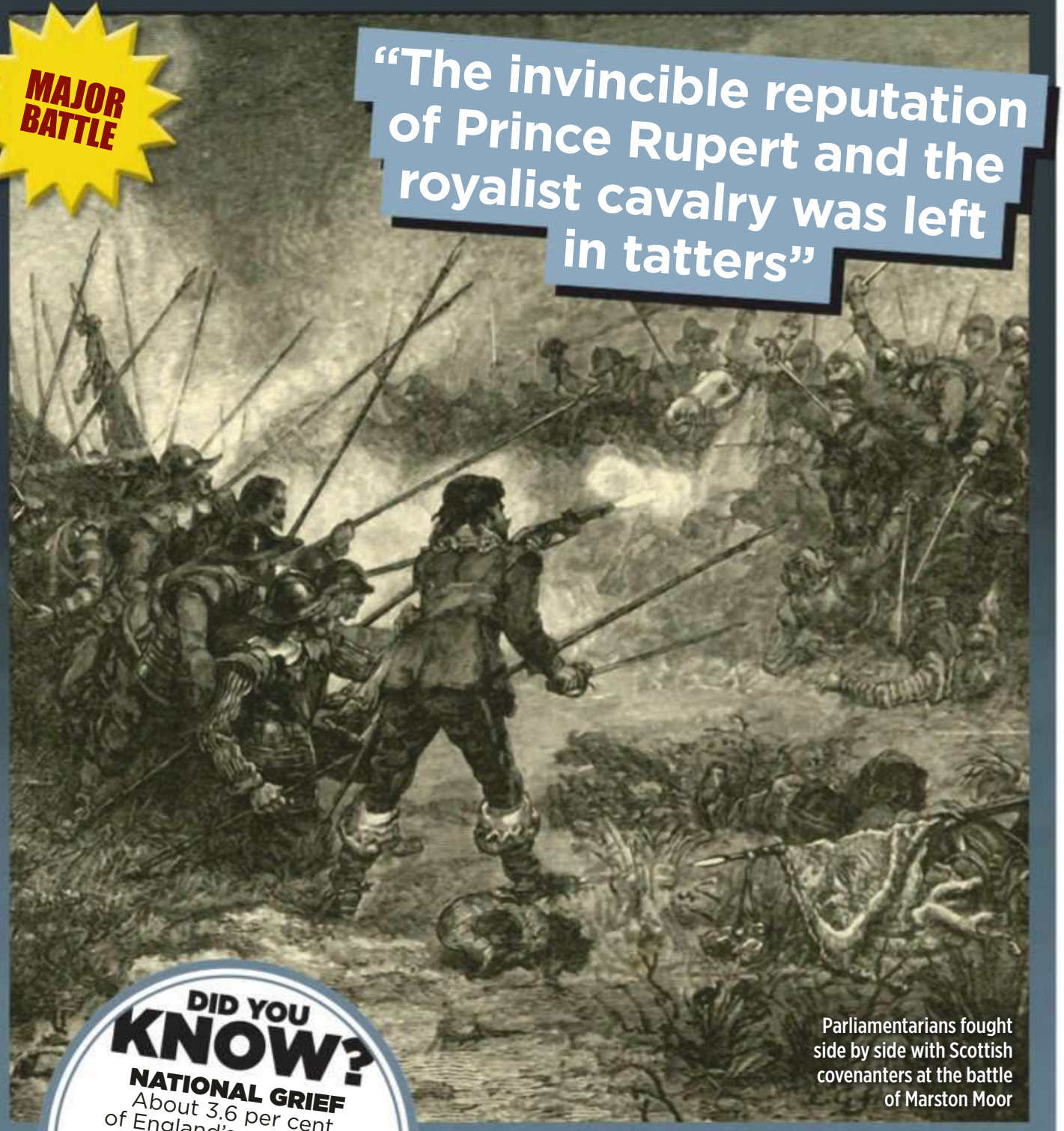
MARSTON MOOR JULY 1644

MAJOR BATTLE

Marston Moor is considered one of the largest battles of the Civil Wars. Prince Rupert's advance had caused the parliamentary army to break its siege of York and head out to meet the advancing royalist army. The royalists had approximately 17,000 men, while the army made up of parliamentarians and Scottish covenanters was much larger – the combined number on both sides is believed to have been around 46,000.

A surprise parliamentarian attack during a thunderstorm destroyed the royal infantry, with fighting lasting just two hours. The commander of the parliamentarian cavalry, which rivalled the royalists, was an up-and-coming military commander who was to make his name on this battlefield: Oliver Cromwell. Initially, the royalists seemed to have the upper hand, with their cavalry inflicting heavy damage, but as they were vastly outnumbered they were soon overrun. While the parliamentarians reported around 300 casualties, royalist losses were closer to 4,000, with many men taken prisoner.

This defeat not only put an end to royal control of the north – it left the invincible reputation of Prince Rupert and the royalist cavalry in tatters. Cromwell had proven himself an effective military leader and would soon be promoted to second-in-command. After the battle, Rupert gave Cromwell the nickname 'Ironside' – a name later bestowed on Cromwell's cavalry troopers.



"The invincible reputation of Prince Rupert and the royalist cavalry was left in tatters"

Parliamentarians fought side by side with Scottish covenanters at the battle of Marston Moor

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X4

DID YOU KNOW?

NATIONAL GRIEF

About 3.6 per cent of England's population died as a result of the Civil Wars (including fighting, disease and accidents) – a higher percentage than WWI, which saw 2.6 per cent of the population die.

CASTLE DORE
THESE EARTHWORKS, 225FT. IN DIAMETER, ENCLOSED A VILLAGE DATING FROM THE 3RD. TO 1ST. CENTURIES B.C.
IN THE 6TH. CENTURY A.D. THEY SURROUNDED THE WOODEN HALL OF KING MARK OF CORNWALL, WHO FIGURES IN THE STORY OF TRISTAN AND ISEULT AND WHO IS NAMED ON THE STONE FOUND NEAR HERE AND NOW AT THE FOUR TURNINGS, FOWEY.
ON 31ST. AUGUST 1644, THE SITE WAS HELD BY PARLIAMENTARY FORCES AND TAKEN BY THE ROYALISTS.
ERECTED BY
ST. WARDREATH OLD CORNWALL SOCIETY, 1904

A sign at the Iron Age fort of Castle Dore commemorates the battle of Lostwithiel

LOSTWITHIEL AUGUST 1644

When the Earl of Essex ventured into Cornwall, hoping to gain support for the parliamentarian cause, things didn't go entirely to plan. In August 1644, he was surrounded in Lostwithiel when Charles I joined forces with his nephew, Prince Maurice. There were two stages to the ensuing battle, with the first action taking place on enclosed hills and heath land around Lostwithiel on 21 August 1644, followed by many days of exchanging fire. On 31 August, the parliamentarians ransacked the town and began to retreat. Essex eventually escaped by sea to Plymouth, and his abandoned subordinates decided the best course of action was to agree terms with the King.

Thousands of parliamentarian troops were taken prisoner with many dying during the march to Southampton. This was the parliamentarians worst defeat and saw the royalists maintain their hold over the south west for the rest of the war.

LEFT: **Cromwell reads Charles I's explosive correspondence, captured at Naseby – it revealed the King was conspiring to gain Catholic support for his cause**

MAIN: **As demonstrated by these re-enactors, the battle of Naseby was a brutal slog**

MAJOR BATTLE

NASEBY JUNE 1645

In retaliation for the royalist sacking of Leicester on 31 May 1645, parliamentarian commander Sir Thomas Fairfax was ordered to lift his own siege of royalist Oxford and ride out to meet the King. The armies fought on 14 June, near the Northamptonshire village of Naseby. When the armies could eventually find each other through the fog, the battle quickly descended into fierce hand-to-hand combat. Prince Rupert and his horsemen chased away part of the parliamentarian cavalry; on the other side of the battlefield Cromwell defeated the royalist cavalry, and then attacked the flank of the royalist infantry, which had been defeating its parliamentary counterparts.

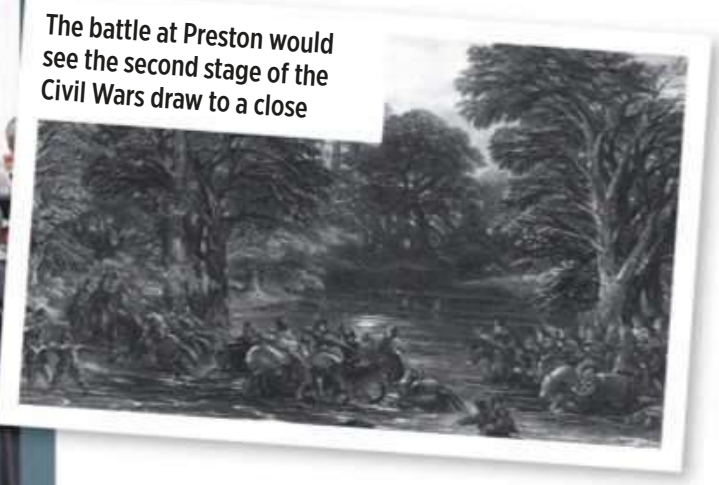
The nascent New Model Army had shown off its discipline to great effect (*see p48*). The royalists' chances of winning the battle were few: with most of their best officers killed, they never managed to form an army of such comparable quality again. The royalists suffered nearly 1,000 losses, while the parliamentarians claimed just around 150.

Most concerning for Charles I was the capture of evidence that proved he was attempting to get help from Catholics in Ireland and across Europe, fuelling anger among England's Protestants and seeming to justify the morality of the war. This would have serious consequences for him later.

Within a few months, royalist resistance across England had been defeated. The King would eventually flee his Oxford base (disguised as a servant) after it was besieged, and ultimately surrender to the Scots at Newark, in 1646.

KILSYTH AUGUST 1645

On 15 August 1645, Kilsyth in North Lanarkshire would play host to the largest battle in Scotland during the Civil Wars. An alliance of parliamentarians and Scottish covenanters faced royalist Scottish troops commanded by the Marquis of Montrose. Before either commander had given an order, fighting broke out and more and more soldiers joined in. The parliamentary and covenanter army made a run for it when it was clear they could not win, and almost two-thirds of their men were killed. Montrose celebrated his victory, but quickly realised it had all been in vain after hearing of the royalist defeat at Naseby. He attempted to call a parliament in Glasgow in the name of the King but failed. This was to be Montrose's last great battle, and he was hanged in 1650 by the Scottish parliament as a traitor after fighting on the side of Charles II.



The battle at Preston would see the second stage of the Civil Wars draw to a close

PRESTON AUGUST 1648

In 1647, some of the Scottish nobility had agreed to fight for Charles I in what was known as the Engagement. In exchange, they demanded that Presbyterianism be introduced in England – Charles agreed to a trial period of three years. A second civil war had been ignited.

In what is considered to be one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil Wars, the parliamentarians took on their former allies between 17-19 August 1648. Although they were greater in number, the Scots were poorly equipped and fled the boggy battlefield; they surrendered to Cromwell at Warrington on 19 August.

The New Model Army had won another decisive victory, a resounding final blow for the royalist cause that put an end to the second civil war. In the aftermath, thousands of royalist prisoners were sent for servile labour in the New World.

LEFT: **The New Model Army was the first English army to wear a standardised uniform**

RIGHT: **Charles I during the battle of Naseby**

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3

THE NEW MODEL ARMY

As Parliament continued to suffer losses, a new strategy was needed – and with it, a brand new national army

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

Before the Civil Wars, England had no permanent standing army. Each county had its own local militia that could be called upon during times of conflict, but these weren't professional soldiers.

In 1644, the parliamentarians suffered one of their biggest losses at Lostwithiel in Cornwall, where their main field army was destroyed. In the wake of the defeat, Oliver Cromwell argued that Parliament could never win the war without better military strength; there were even concerns that some politicians in command of armies might try to prolong the war to keep hold of their power.

On 3 April 1645, the Self-Denying Ordinance was passed by Parliament: no member of the House of Commons or the House of Lords was henceforth permitted to hold office in the army or navy – although this was modified to allow re-appointments. The parliamentarian army, too, was reorganised and a New Model Army was formed – a national army of professional and well-trained soldiers, equipped to fight anywhere it was required. Unlike the armies of the past, the highest-ranking officers were chosen based on their talent, rather than on social status or weath. As well as weeding out any unsuitable candidates, many Scottish and foreign mercenary officers were removed, too, making the new army an almost-entirely English force, some 20,000 men strong.

The New Model Army, as well as being better organised and equipped, was also quite radical in religious terms, as historian Professor Mark Stoyle explains: "A lot of the most radical Protestants – really zealous Puritans – flocked to the army. These were people after Cromwell's own heart: radically religious, English and patriotic."

Recruits were also taught the divine quality of their mission using *The Soldier's Catechism*, which detailed the parliamentarians' stance in the war and encouraged all of the soldiers to be godly.

There was a lot of competition for good positions in the new army and many men volunteered to fight, but this still didn't

The parliamentarians' New Model Army soon demonstrated the benefits of having a full-time professional force on the field

"The soldiers of the New Model Army had proven themselves to be a highly skilled and dangerous force"

make up the required numbers. Professor Stoyle suggests that conscription was needed – especially in London and the south-east – meaning there were a number of soldiers who didn't necessarily want to be there, at least at first.

A standardised uniform was introduced for this new national army, with red coats chosen as it was the cheapest option – it was the first time in English history that an army had all worn the same uniform. Financial discipline was kept, too, and soldiers were provided with regular and generous pay.

TURNING THE TIDE

Following their 1644 defeat in Cornwall, a few of the men who had been dismissed from the earlier parliamentarian armies now joined forces with Charles I. Replete with experienced soldiers, the King was flushed with confidence and sure of victory, while the New Model Army had not yet been tested on the battlefield. Charles would soon discover, however, that the war was far from won.

Sir Thomas Fairfax was made captain general of the New Model Army, and on 14 June, it faced its first great battle, at Naseby in Northamptonshire. The army successfully destroyed the King's forces, and within a year, had won the first of the Civil Wars for Parliament. Whether this victory was purely down to the New Model Army is not clear, but as Stoyle says, they certainly helped: "Parliament could have won without the New Model Army, but probably wouldn't have done so as swiftly. With their access to London and its trade routes, parliamentary resources were much better and could be channelled to the army, which contained very fervent, committed officers and men. It was also much bigger than the King's forces, especially at Naseby. The historian Ronald Hutton once remarked that the King committed suicide at Naseby by tackling a much bigger army with a much smaller one."

The soldiers of the New Model Army had proven themselves to be a highly skilled and dangerous force to be reckoned with. They continued to win victories on the battlefield, and in 1648 they crushed the royalists and Scots at Preston and brought the Second Civil War to its conclusion.

The New Model Army also went with Cromwell during his campaigns in Ireland, and – with Cromwell taking the place of Fairfax – they beat the Scots and royalists at Dunbar and Worcester, resulting in the end of the Civil Wars altogether in 1651.

During the days of the Protectorate, after Charles's execution, Cromwell relied heavily on the New Model Army to rule, rather than looking to his parliament, and it eventually eclipsed the institution in power. However, Cromwell's son and successor, Richard, commanded no allegiance with the military, and the New Model Army was disbanded upon the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

Despite this, it was clear that a permanent army was still in the nation's best interests, and a new English army was established by Charles II in January 1661 – the basis for the modern British army forces today.

THE LEVELLERS

The turmoil of the Civil Wars was an ideal breeding ground for political dissent

Out of the chaos of the Civil Wars came a new political movement known as the Levellers, who believed in religious tolerance, equality, suffrage and popular sovereignty. The name itself was derived from a derogatory term for rural rebels.

One important figure of the movement was John Lilburne, who was arrested in 1645 for suggesting that MPs enjoyed a life of luxury while letting others fight for their cause. Many discontented members of the New Model Army began listening to these new ideas, which appealed to those who felt ignored.

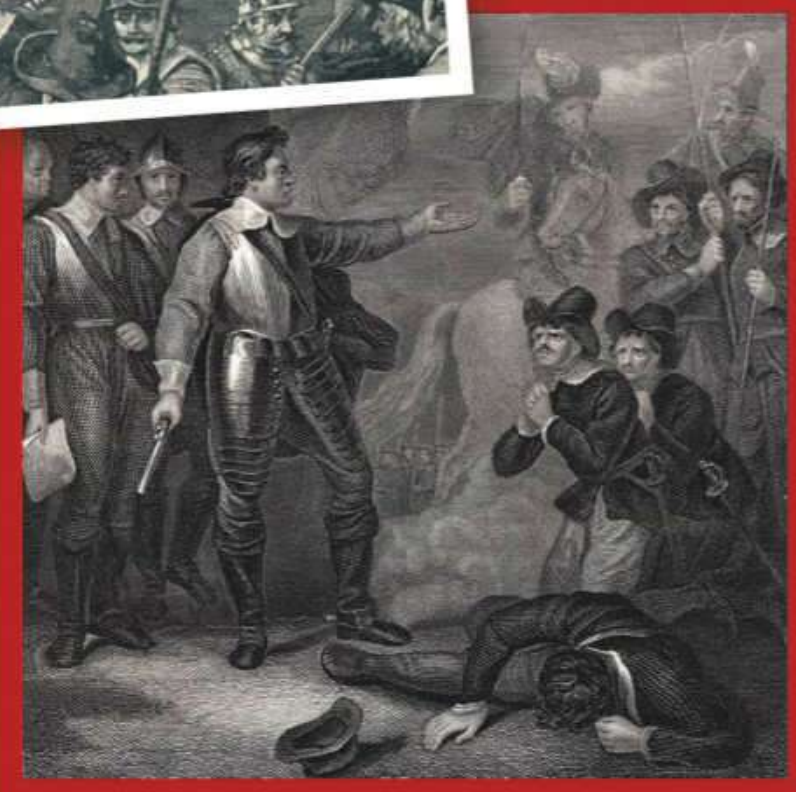
At first, the Levellers campaigned alongside Oliver Cromwell, but they eventually turned against him, demanding a settlement to the Civil Wars that would ensure political freedom.

In 1647, the movement began to create a plan to modernise the democratic process across England and question the authority of parliament. They asked for the vote to be extended to a wider group of people, while the army also presented its own set of grievances. The Levellers eventually began to lose support within the army, and the 1649 Banbury Mutiny – when Cromwell launched a surprise attack on dissenting solders – saw the Levellers' power base in the New Model Army destroyed.

Although they didn't achieve success in England, their ideas would go on to inspire many revolutionaries in France and America.

LEFT: Leveller John Lilburne supported 'freeborn rights'

BELOW: Cromwell launches an attack on soldiers supporting the Levellers



READY FOR BATTLE

How did royalist and parliamentarian armies fight?

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

When it came to choosing sides during the Civil Wars, it usually depended on who controlled your local area.There were three main types of soldiers within both armies: cavalry (horsemen), infantry (foot soldiers) and dragoons (mounted infantry who would ride into battle and dismount to fight). Infantrymen were organised into regiments, usually of 400-600 men, and commanded by a colonel. Within these infantry regiments were pikemen (armed with short swords for hand-to-hand fighting and a long pike measuring 16-18ft) and musketeers, who were armed with muskets that fired lead musket balls at the enemy.

Cavalrymen were also organised into regiments and went into battle with a pair of pistols, a broadsword and often a carbine (a type of musket). Field artillery such as cannon, mortars and heavy guns were also common and could cause significant damage.

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X3

HELP FROM THE NORTH
At the start of the Civil Wars, Scotland was sympathetic to Parliament's cause. This modern re-enactor wears a grey doublet and Scots bonnet.

HEAD FIRST
The distinctive headgear worn by pikemen was known as the Morion helmet. Originating in Spain during the 16th century, it could protect troops during the 'push of pike' manoeuvre.

COLOUR CLASH
Until the creation of the New Model Army in 1645, uniform colour merely depended on your regiment. This meant that opposing armies risked looking similar, causing confusion during battle.

HEAVY DUTY
Infantry armour often consisted of a breastplate, together with 'tassets' to protect the thighs. A toughened-leather coat would be worn underneath.

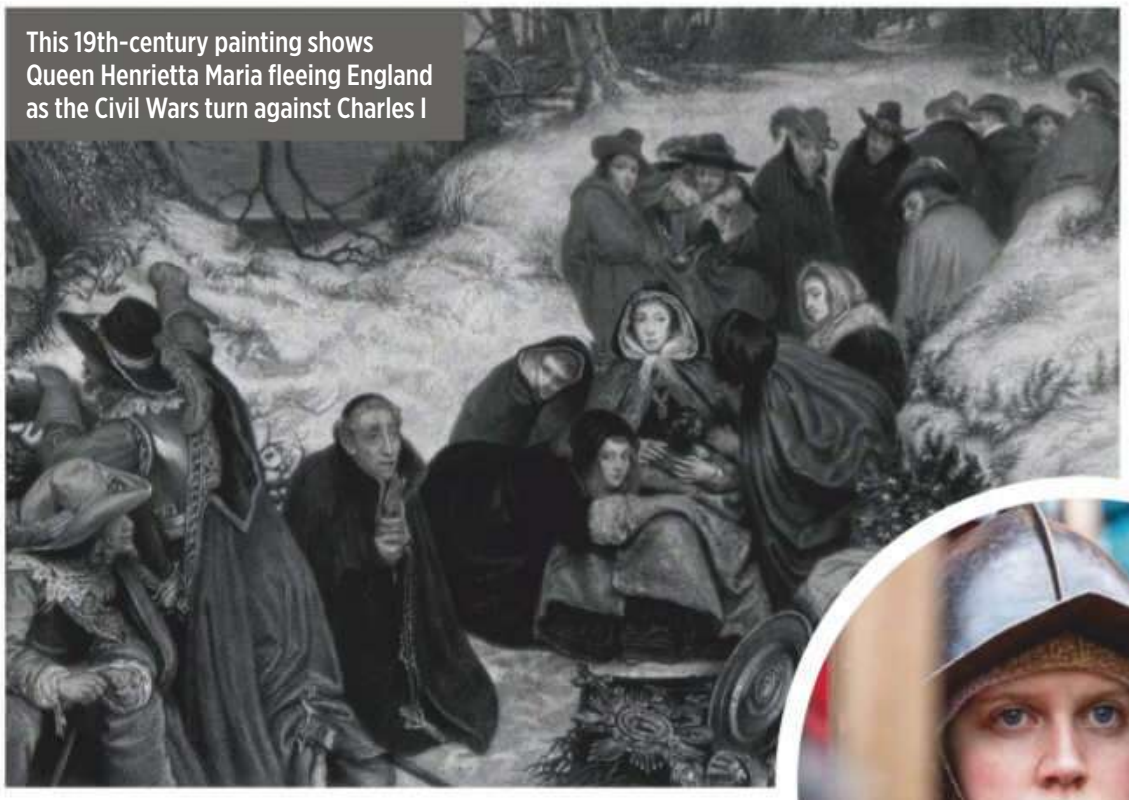
ONE SHOT
Musketeers were trained to shoot in volleys and in lines up to six-men deep. However, their weapons took time to load and could be highly inaccurate over long distances.

BROTHERS IN ARMS
About a third of the infantry on both sides carried long pikes. Though not particularly useful at close quarters, they could protect musketeer comrades as they reloaded.

WARRIOR WOMEN

The Civil Wars were not an exclusively male domain – women from all social spheres had a role to play

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS



This 19th-century painting shows Queen Henrietta Maria fleeing England as the Civil Wars turn against Charles I

Arguably the most important woman of the Civil Wars was the wife of Charles I, Henrietta Maria. Although the French-born queen has sometimes been overlooked, Professor Mark Stoyle argues that she was a far more pivotal figure in the conflict than is usually recognised. He even suggests that the King's declaration of war may have been partly prompted out of concern for her: "Charles's attempt to arrest five MPs in January 1642 was, I think, partly prompted by rumours beginning to circulate that MPs were about to impeach Henrietta Maria and even, perhaps, to execute her." Sent to the Continent for her safety, the Queen continued to support the royalists from across the Channel, sending supplies and money, and later gathering an army to join her husband.

Aside from Henrietta Maria, women from all classes of society played a role during the Civil Wars. "There were some great noble women who defended their houses against the other side," says Stoyle. "The most famous of these were Lady Brilliana Harley, who defended her castle on the Welsh Marches, and Lady Banks, who defended her castle in Dorset, but women all over Britain fought to protect their homes against the rampaging armies. During the eight-week siege of Lyme Regis in 1644, women helped to dig fortifications and bring out supplies to the men in the trenches. Some even fired muskets and cannons".

When we think of women taking on the jobs of men who went off to fight, we picture more recent conflicts like the world wars. But it was also the case during the Civil Wars, too, with some women fulfilling important civic duties – such as parish constables – while the men of the local community joined the royalist or parliamentary causes.

Once the monarchy was restored in 1660, women returned to their normal household roles – but there were important shifts. Radical religious sects began to pop up allowing female preachers, and some women also became published authors for the first time.

Overall, Stoyle claims that the conflicts that dominated the mid-17th century had a significant impact on the dynamics of society: "I would argue that women's lives during the Civil Wars changed just as much as men's did."

SWAPPING DRESSES FOR BREECHES

Some women took desperate measures to be near their loved ones or simply get a slice of the action...

For those women for whom becoming a camp follower wasn't enough to feel like they were contributing to the war effort, the only option was to pull on a pair of breeches and join the army. While some women donned men's clothes so they could accompany their husbands, others actually wanted to get on the battlefield itself. Both the Bible and the King took a dim view of this practice, and those who were discovered could face public whipping. The actual number of women who cross-dressed is unknown, but the problem was significant enough that a draft proclamation of 1643, which set out required standards of behaviour in the army, contained a hand-written memo from Charles I forbidding women from wearing men's clothes.

Female re-enactors (*above and inset*) don't have to resort to elaborate disguises to join in with battles – unlike women of the time

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2

WAR OF WORDS

The Civil Wars were a propagandist's dream, made all the easier by a breakdown in print censorship

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

The Civil Wars saw a veritable explosion in printed material, as King and Parliament did all they could to win the three kingdoms over to their respective causes, and malign the reputation of their opponents. Printing presses churned out thousands upon thousands of pamphlets and publications, some of which were sold for as little as a penny, making them easily accessible to ordinary people. It was religious and political propaganda on a scale that had not been seen in England before – between 1640 and 1660, more than 30,000 publications are believed to have been printed in London alone.

"When Charles I abandoned London in 1642, and even before then, the censorship that he and his predecessors – Elizabeth I and James VI and I – had so carefully protected completely collapsed, and we see a massive efflorescence of publishing," says Professor Mark Stoyle. "Parliament controlled London, which meant it had unlimited access to the capital's printing presses, typesetters, writers, publishers – the whole literary world, really. The King established royalist printing presses at his headquarters in Oxford, but he was never able to achieve the same level of print production as the parliamentarians."

THE GLOVES ARE OFF

With, according to Stoyle, as many as 30–40 per cent of Londoners able to read at this time, print was an ideal way of sharing religious and political views, and spreading rumours about your enemy.

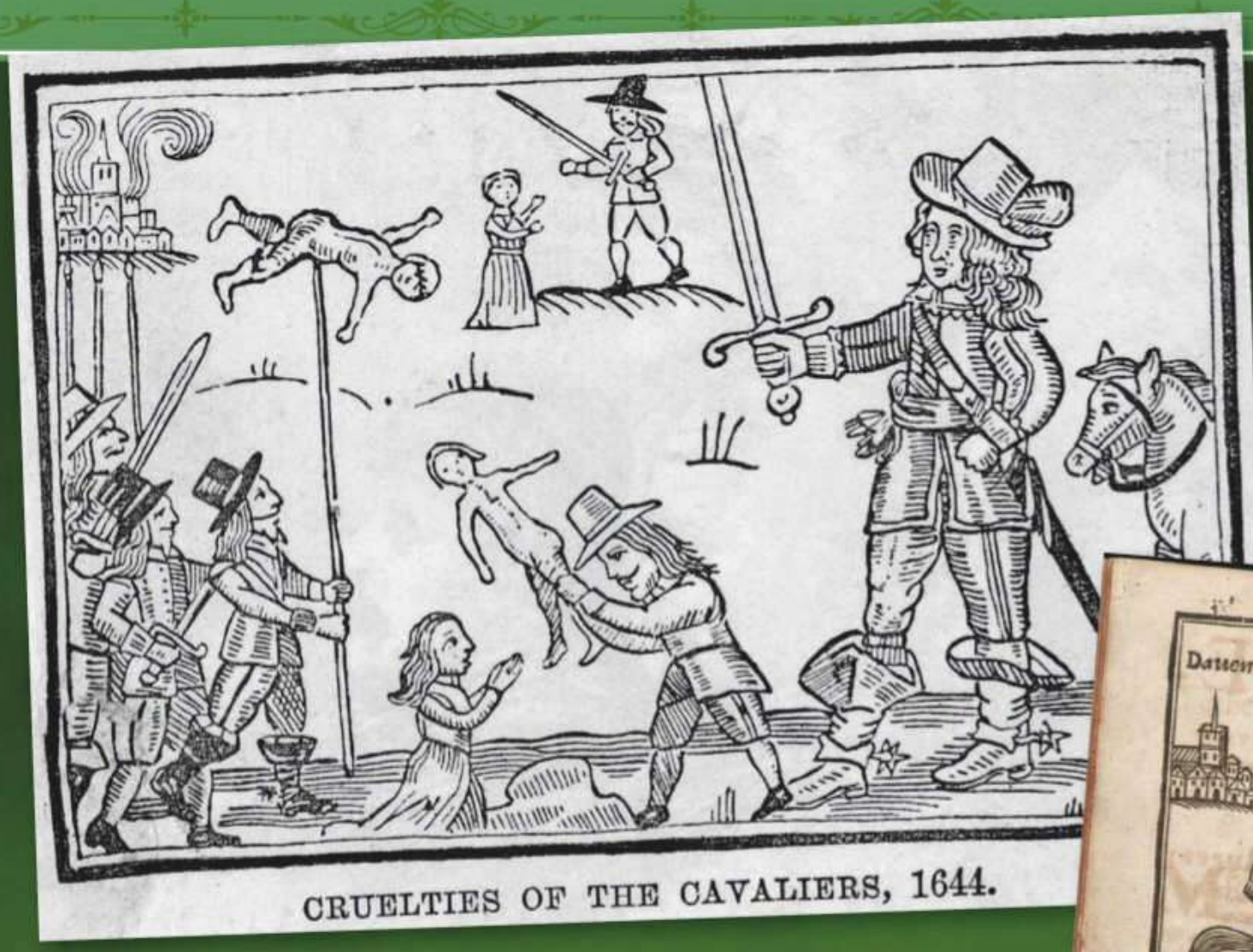
In 1643, the royalist faction launched a weekly newsbook, *Mercurius Aulicus* – a forerunner to the modern-day newspaper – to promote their views in Parliament-held London. Printed in Oxford where it sold for a penny a copy, it was then smuggled into London for distribution there. Although the *Aulicus* stopped publishing in 1645, it is still considered one of England's most important early newspapers. Not to be outdone, Parliament also launched its own newsbook, in August 1643 – *Mercurius Britanicus*. A young journalist named Marchamont Nedham was made chief writer for the *Britanicus*, and he became known for his damning character assassinations of Charles I, seeking to highlight his weaknesses and personality flaws – even mocking the King's stammer.

Both sides sought to minimise the damage caused by their own troops and draw attention to the antics of their enemies – in one edition of *Mercurius Aulicus*, editor John Birkenhead claimed it was "a common Parliament practice, to set a House on fire, and then to runne away by the light of it". Elsewhere, Charles's Catholic queen Henrietta Maria was a common target for mud-slinging in parliamentary publications.

▲ **WITCH HUNTING, 1647**
As censorship broke down, pamphlets on a variety of topics could be printed freely – including texts suggesting that witches were at large. This gave Witch-finder General Matthew Hopkins his chance and, with people becoming increasingly radicalised by such propaganda, he was able to launch a bloody campaign to hunt down 'witches' in Essex and East Anglia between 1645–47.

◀ **THE MAKING OF A MARTYR, 1649**
First published on the day of Charles I's execution, as the frontispiece of *Eikon Basilike: The pourtraicture of His Sacred Majestie in his solitudes and sufferings*, this image depicts Charles with a ray extending from his eye to the crown of martyrdom, as well as other religious iconography, including a crown of thorns. The pathos of the image made it an instant royalist propaganda win.

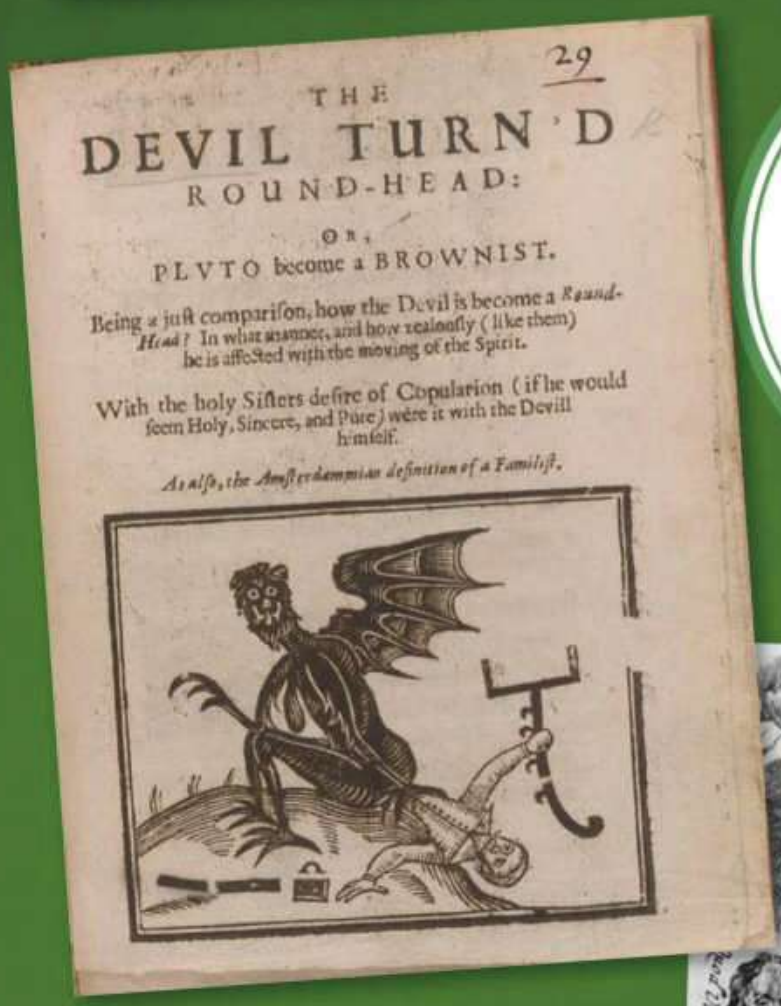
GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X5



◀ DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, 1644
Much of the propaganda of the time sought to incite its readers by highlighting, or embellishing, atrocities committed by both sides during the Civil Wars. In this parliamentarian illustration, royalist soldiers are depicted killing innocent women and children, while in the background a city burns.

▼ THE ROYALIST DOG-WITCH, 1643
Charles I's nephew Prince Rupert was a popular literary target for Parliament, not least because of the rumours surrounding his dog, Boy, who was said to be a witch's familiar, or even the Devil in disguise, and in possession of magical powers. Royalist writers played upon these rumours with delight, until Boy was killed at the battle of Marston Moor, in July 1644.

Brimidgham
The most Illustrious and High borne PRINCE RUPERT,
PRINCE ELECTOR, Second Son to FREDERICK
KING of BOHEMIA, GENERALL of the HORSE
of His MAJESTIES ARMY, KNIGHT of the Noble
Order of the GARTER.


29
THE
DEVIL TURN'D
ROUND-HEAD:
OR,
PLVTO become a BROWNIST.
Being a just comparison, how the Devil is become a Round-Head? In what manner, and how zealously (like them) he is affected with the moving of the Spirit.
With the holy Sisters desire of Copulation (if he would seem Holy, Sincere, and Pure) were it with the Devill himself.
As also, the Amsterdammian definition of a Familist.

DID YOU KNOW?

A DISLOYAL SUBJECT
Parliamentary propagandist Marchamont Nedham ended up switching sides – twice! In 1647, after reportedly gaining a royal pardon from Charles I, Nedham began writing for the royalists. But after his imprisonment in 1649, he switched back again.

▲ DEVIL ARMIES, 1642
Accusations of witchcraft were commonplace in the propaganda of both Parliament and the King, as both tapped into the witch fears that were resurging following the breakdown in print censorship. Royalists and parliamentarians were both accused of being in league with the Devil, as seen here in this tract, which depicts a devil excreting a Roundhead.

▶ ENGLAND UPROOTED, 1649
As the three kingdoms reeled from the shock of Charles's execution, royalist propaganda focused on Oliver Cromwell and the nation's move to commonwealth status. This satirical illustration depicts Cromwell supervising the destruction of the royal oak of England. Falling with the tree are the 'fruits' of Magna Carta, various statutes and the Bible.

KILLING THE KING

To bring peace to the realm, Parliament made the once unthinkable decision to send Charles I to the block

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

After years of bloodshed, leading parliamentarian army officers and some MPs came to the decision that the only way to restore peace across the nation was to remove Charles I permanently. The decision was momentous: legally sanctioned regicide in England had never been committed before, nor has it since.

In 1646, Charles surrendered to the Scots, who in turn gave him up to Parliament for a large sum of money. The King was held in various places for 18 months, including Hampton Court Palace, before escaping to the Isle of Wight. He believed the governor of the island would be sympathetic but was instead taken captive and held in Carisbrooke Castle.

While imprisoned, Charles managed to smuggle out messages to his supporters and made a deal with the Scots. If they helped him reclaim his throne, Presbyterianism would be established in England – for a trial period of three years. This started the rather brief Second Civil War, which saw the King's hopes dashed in August 1648 as royalist and Scottish uprisings were crushed by the New Model Army.

This second round of conflict was the last straw for radical parliamentarians, says Professor Mark Stoyle: "They felt that their victory in the First Civil War meant that God favoured the parliamentary cause. By 'steeping the kingdom in blood' once more, the King had gone too far."

In December 1648, a military coup known as Pride's Purge saw a host of MPs who wanted to negotiate with the King excluded entry to the House of Commons by the army, under Colonel Thomas Pride. Those remaining formed the so-called Rump Parliament and the King was charged with high treason.

On 20 January 1649, Charles's trial began without the backing of the House

DID YOU KNOW?

HUNTED DOWN

Many who had signed the King's death warrant fled England after the Restoration. Those who remained or were pursued abroad were executed or imprisoned, with the exception of Cromwell's cousin, Richard Ingoldsby, who was pardoned after claiming he had been forced to sign. Some of the ringleaders, including Cromwell, underwent a posthumous execution.

Charles I on his final walk towards Whitehall Palace and his execution

WHAT CAME NEXT...

England was now a republic, but the bloodshed continued

With the King dead, England was declared a Commonwealth and Free-State, Cromwell became the first de facto leader of the Council of State – a period known as the Interregnum.

The execution of Charles I was not the death of the royalist cause – supporters threw their allegiance behind his son. Charles II was crowned king at Scone on 1 January 1651 after making a deal with the Scottish Covenanters. A brief Third Civil War ensued, as Scottish forces headed south into England. Charles II was forced to flee to France as Cromwell's forces emerged victorious once more, at the battle of Worcester.

Since Charles's death, the new Commonweath had been ruled by a small group of MPs known as the 'Rump', but after failing to call a parliament, this was dissolved in April 1653. The Barebones Parliament followed, but, in December 1653, this too was closed down and Cromwell was declared Lord Protector.

In 1657, Parliament asked Cromwell to accept the 'Humble Petition and Advice' – a new constitution that would, among other things, make Cromwell king. Cromwell eventually refused the crown, perhaps because he believed accepting it would show pride and ambition, and provoke God's disapproval. Cromwell died in 1658 and was succeeded by his son, Richard, but before long the Protectorate collapsed. In 1660, Charles II was invited back to London and restored to the throne – he would reign for nearly 25 years.

GETTY IMAGES X4, MOVIE STILLS X1, BBC X1

A painting, thought to be based on eye-witness accounts, of the execution of Charles I

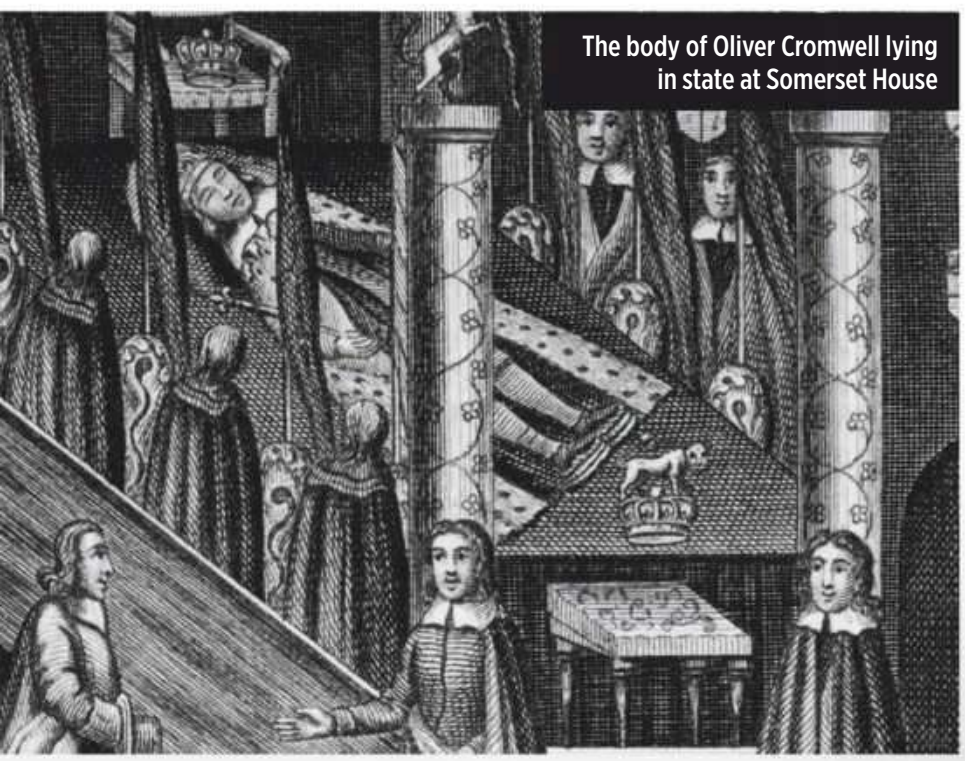
of Lords. During the four occasions that the King appeared, he refused to enter a plea and continually questioned the authority of the court – to no avail. On 27 January he was found guilty and was ultimately sentenced to death by 59 signatures.

On 30 January 1649, Charles I was led through Whitehall Palace's Banqueting House, passing beneath the Rubens ceiling depicting his father, James VI and I, as a divine ruler. Stepping out of a window on the first floor onto a scaffold, he was greeted by a large assembled crowd.

Wearing two shirts – so people would not mistake his shivering for fear – Charles I knelt at the block and his head was removed with a single blow, to groaning dismay from the crowd. Some spectators rushed forward to dip their handkerchiefs in the King's blood.

But Charles may have seen his execution as his dynasty's only hope, suggests Stoyle: "Some of the King's admirers claimed that Charles was determined to be a martyr. Charles may have believed that dying as a martyr to his cause was the best way of ensuring that his son would eventually inherit the throne."

Charles's execution created shockwaves across Europe. "It's hard to overexaggerate what a shock this was," says Stoyle. "Probably less than ten per cent of the English people would have wanted the King's death. A lot of people thought God would strike England down for this; to have actually executed an anointed King was incomprehensible." ⊙



The body of Oliver Cromwell lying in state at Somerset House

GET HOOKED

If we've whetted your appetite for the Stuart dynasty, why not explore the topic further with our pick of books, films and podcasts

BOOKS

The Black Legend of Prince Rupert's Dog: Witchcraft and Propaganda during the English Civil War

By Professor Mark Stoyle (Liverpool University Press, 2011)

This compelling book from Mark Stoyle sheds new light on the story of a 'dog-witch' named Boy, the loyal companion of Charles I's nephew, Prince Rupert of the Rhine, who was held to possess supernatural powers.

Cromwell, Our Chief of Men

By Antonia Fraser (Orion, 1999)

Antonia Fraser explores the life and character of Oliver Cromwell, and discovers a man of contradictions and surprising charm; a decisive and ruthless commander who was also a country gentleman and a passionate connoisseur of music.

The English Civil War at First Hand

By Tristram Hunt (Penguin, 2011)

Tristram Hunt offers a narrative of the English Civil War based on the first-hand accounts of those who witnessed these traumatic events. From Cromwell's letters to the memoirs of a Roundhead wife the civil war era is brought to life in all its terrible and fascinating glory.

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ **The Trial of Charles I** *(BBC Radio 4):* Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the Stuart king's trial in an episode of *In Our Time*. Listen at *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00kpzd6*

History Extra

▶ **For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on the Stuarts, visit the Stuarts hub on our website: *historyextra.com/period/stuart***

WATCH

The Devil's Whore

(Now streaming on All4)

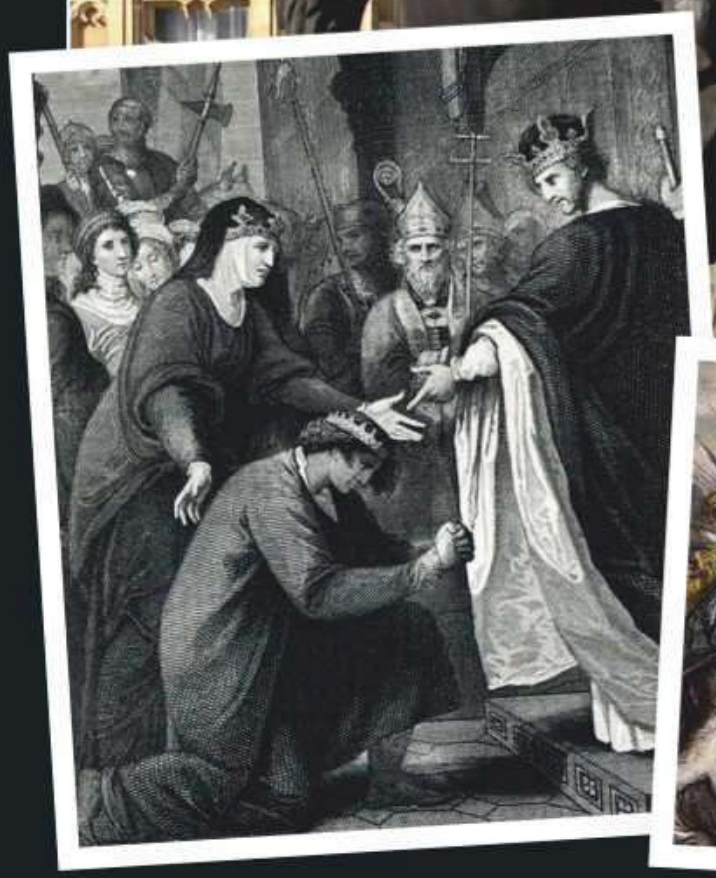
Set between the years 1642 and 1660, *The Devil's Whore* charts the progress of the Civil Wars through the eyes of the fictional Angelica Fanshawe.

Charles I: Downfall of a King

(BBC, now streaming on Amazon Prime)

Across three one-hour episodes, historian Lisa Hilton reveals how this cataclysmic moment in Britain's past was sparked by the events of just 50 days.

“Once crowned, Richard swiftly renounced his past cruelty and misdeeds to take the cross”



ABOVE: **Though he is one of England’s best-known kings, Richard the Lionheart spent remarkably little time in the country**

LEFT: **Richard leads the crusaders at Arsuf**

FAR LEFT: **John submits to Richard, now king – though he would soon turn on his brother**

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1

RICHARD THE LIONHEART

Given a nickname 'Lionheart' for his legendary courage and fearlessness in battle, Richard I's military tactics were brutal and unforgiving, writes **Nige Tassell**. As King of England, he led the Third Crusade in an attempt to wrestle the Holy Land from Muslim control

The adult life of Richard I of England aka Richard Coeur de Lion, aka Richard the Lionheart can be divided into two clear halves. First, there's the lengthy struggle for power waged against his father, Henry II. Then, once he ascended the English throne, there's his ten year reign, during which time Richard was almost exclusively overseas, either engaged in the bloody Third Crusade (1189 92) or imprisoned during his journey back through Europe; accordingly, during his reign Richard spent no more than six months on English soil.

Born in Oxford in 1157 to Henry II and his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard was the third of the couple's five sons, making it unlikely that he would ever be king. But with his two elder brothers dying before their father, the throne became Richard's destiny, even though the process of succession represented anything like plain sailing.

FAMILY SQUABBLES

The reign of Henry II, the first king of the house of Plantagenet, was largely preoccupied with its relations with the Capetians, the dynasty ruling France. Henry himself was Duke of Normandy from 1150, and his marriage to Eleanor, the former wife of Louis VII of France, put Aquitaine, the southwestern corner of France, under the control of the English throne. At the age of 11, Richard was made Duke of Aquitaine.

Richard's older brother Henry known as Henry the Young King was crowned in 1170, but Henry II never permitted his eldest surviving son the kind of autonomous rule he favoured. Frustrated, Henry the Young King rebelled against his father and sought the protection of Louis VII of France; his brothers Richard and Geoffrey followed suit. The rebels secured several strategic towns in Brittany and, in 1173, when Henry II imprisoned his own queen and wife from whom he had separated in 1167 Richard launched a campaign against his father's supporters in Aquitaine.

Henry II recaptured those gains in Brittany, as well as taking the city of Saintes, Richard's base in Aquitaine. Richard went into hiding, while Henry defeated Louis and Henry the Young King at the siege of Rouen. A peace treaty was

Richard I returns from captivity – the Third Crusade cemented the King's reputation as a brutal warrior

signed in 1174, but Richard was excluded from its terms, prompting him to visit Henry II's court at Poitiers to beg for forgiveness. Despite pardoning him, the King didn't release Eleanor. Instead, the Queen's incarceration was Henry's insurance policy to ensure her much loved son didn't fall out of line again.

Richard concerned himself with putting down rebellions rather brutally in Aquitaine, but the tensions remained between him and his father. When Richard refused to pay homage to Henry the Young King, his elder brother invaded Aquitaine; Richard successfully withstood the attack.

Henry the Young King died shortly afterwards. With Henry and Eleanor's first son (William) having died at the age of three, Richard was now heir to the English throne. Not that Henry II recognised this, though. But, after aligning with Louis VII's successor Philip II of France, Richard's forces beat Henry's at Ballans, and the King formally named his third son as his heir. Henry II died a few days later.

Once crowned at Westminster Abbey, Richard swiftly renounced his past cruelty and misdeeds to take the cross and prepare for the Third Crusade, an attempt to reconquer the Holy Land from the control of the Muslim sultan Saladin, in particular the city of Jerusalem. To finance this, Richard raised taxes and sold land and official titles. His disregard for – or, at least, lack of sentimentality towards England wasn't a secret. "I would have sold London if I could find a buyer," he reportedly revealed.

Setting out on crusade in the summer of 1190 alongside his French ally Philip II, the pair captured Messina on Sicily and Cyprus before landing at Acre, on the coast of modern day Israel. After Saladin refused a face to face meeting, Richard's dead eyed brutality showed itself. Having taken the garrison at Acre, he ordered the decapitation of as many as 3,000 Muslim prisoners held within, which included the wives and children of the inmates.

The subsequent battle of Arsūf saw a crucial victory for Richard over Saladin, who lost 7,000 men, before the crusaders took the strategic post of Jaffa ahead of an assault on Jerusalem. However, a split in their leadership about the plan of attack proved fatal to the crusaders who, without a united front, abandoned their attempts to capture Jerusalem, the overarching aim of the entire campaign. In the terms of a treaty signed in the wake of further hostilities in Jaffa, Jerusalem formally remained in Muslim hands.

SLINKING HOME

The Third Crusade was far from a complete success, and worse was to come. On his journey back through mainland Europe in 1193, Richard was detained at Vienna by Leopold of Austria, who claimed that Richard had had his cousin, the king of Jerusalem, Conrad of Montferrat, killed. Handed to Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI, Richard was imprisoned and a huge ransom placed on his release.

While Richard was incarcerated, his brother John had made an alliance with Philip II, Richard's former ally. After his release in 1194, Richard embarked on a number of battles against the French king, many of which were successful. However, for all his bravery and his excessive brutality in battle, Richard was ultimately downed by a crossbow bolt, allegedly fired by a young boy as an act of revenge against Richard for killing his father and two brothers during a siege of the castle at Châlus Chabrol. As the wound turned gangrenous and John readied himself for the throne, Richard reportedly pardoned the boy a rare act of compassion in a life largely defined by the sword.

Charles Sobhraj pictured with his lover and partner in crime, Marie-Andrée Leclerc. The couple claimed the lives of travellers across southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent

CHARLES SOBHRAJ
THIEF, FRAUDSTER, KILLER

BBC one
Complements the new BBC One drama series *The Serpent*

From Bangkok to Bombay, Charles Sobhraj left a trail of destruction wherever he ventured. **Nige Tassell** reveals the story of the brazen career criminal who graduated from petty theft to cold-blooded murder

Charles Sobhraj was once asked what makes someone a murderer. "Either they have too much feeling and cannot control themselves," he calmly answered, "or they have no feelings. It is one of the two."

Sobhraj definitely falls into the latter camp. Born in Saigon in 1944 to an Indian father and Vietnamese mother (and brought up at a young age by his mother and her subsequent partner, a French Army adjutant sergeant stationed in French Indochina), he attracted notoriety due to a string of murders during the mid 1970s along the well trodden 'hippie trail' that took western backpackers across southern Asia.

The dozen or so murders attributed to Sobhraj (some estimates put the number of his victims at more than double that figure) weren't the result of an out of control bloodlust. His worldview was such that murder was a way of maintaining his transcontinental lifestyle. Boasting both good looks and ineffable charm, Sobhraj would befriend those he encountered on his travels before disposing of them, usually after having drugged them. He would then steal his victims' identities, travelling on their passports to move from country to country undetected.

Unlike other serial killers, Sobhraj appears not to have derived particular pleasure from the act of murder. Nor did there seem to be any internal moral conflict around it. To use his earlier words, he had "no feelings". Indeed, as the journalist Andrew Anthony has observed, "like some bizarre real life combination of Patricia Highsmith's Tom Ripley and Thomas Harris's Hannibal Lecter, he was handsome, charming and utterly without scruple".

Of course, unlike those of these fictional characters, Sobhraj's crimes were very real. His early life, spent shuttling between Indochina and France, was pockmarked by petty crime and he found himself in jail for the first time in 1963, having been convicted of burglary. While incarcerated, he made the acquaintance of a wealthy prison volunteer named Felix d'Escogne, with whom he moved in upon his release. Just as he had shifted between continents, Sobhraj found himself able to shift effortlessly between the streetwise criminal fraternity of Paris and the city's high society. Becoming such a social class chameleon formed the bedrock of his criminal success. He could charm anyone and everyone.

Tahar Rahim as Charles Sobhraj in *The Serpent*. The title of the drama refers to the killer's knack of slithering free from difficult situations

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

In 1970, Sobhraj married Chantal Compagnon, a young Parisian from a devoutly conservative family. He and a pregnant Compagnon travelled to Asia, indulging in petty crime to grease their way; robbing tourists and travelling on the stolen passports. Once there, his criminal activity increased, encompassing everything from car smuggling to armed robbery. Accordingly, he was no stranger to the inside of a jail cell, but he was also familiar with devising plans to get back out again. On more than one occasion he feigned illness in order to be taken to hospital, whether claiming to be suffering from appendicitis or vomiting fake blood. In Kabul, Sobhraj once drugged the guard minding his room and simply walked out of the hospital.

SHUTTERSTOCK X1, MAMMOTH SCREEN LTD X1

The Serpent stars Jenna Coleman (*left*) as Sobhraj's girlfriend, Marie-Andrée Leclerc

The eight-part series also features Billy Howle as Herman Knippenberg, who helped bring Sobhraj to justice

Sobhraj developed a capacity to misuse the trust of those close to him. After his most recent jailbreak he fled to Iran, deserting Compagnon, who was forced to return to her family in Paris. He then spent a couple of years on the run across Eastern Europe and the Middle East, aided by his half-brother. But when the pair were arrested in Athens, Sobhraj switched identities to escape. His younger sibling was eventually sentenced to two years and ten months in jail.

By the time he carried out his first murder, Sobhraj had teamed up with a young Indian man, Ajay Chowdhury. Their first victim was Teresa Knowlton, a backpacker from Seattle who was found drowned in a tidal pool in the Gulf of Thailand in 1975. Knowlton was wearing a bikini; when a future victim was found similarly attired, Sobhraj gained one of his nicknames: The Bikini Killer.

In Thailand, where he alternated between posing as a drug dealer and a jewel salesman, Sobhraj hooked up with a French Canadian traveller called Marie Andrée Leclerc, who became his most devoted accomplice. The next victim was a traveller named Vitali Hakim, whose burnt body was found near the resort where Sobhraj and Leclerc were living. Two Dutch students followed, their bodies found strangled and, again, burnt. Then came the discovery of the corpse of Charmayne Carrou, Hakim's girlfriend, who had travelled to Thailand to investigate his disappearance.

Sobhraj and Leclerc then absconded to Nepal where they met and murdered a pair of North American backpackers and travelled into India before returning to Thailand, all using their victims' passports. By now, a handful of Sobhraj and Leclerc's associates in Thailand suspected them of carrying out the murders and, before fleeing back to France, notified the authorities.

Sobhraj, Leclerc and Chowdhury travelled together to Singapore and then India where they committed another murder, that of Israeli tourist Alan Aaron Jacobs, for apparently no other reason than to take his passport. They returned to Bangkok in spring 1976, unaware that Sobhraj was by then a wanted man. However, after being interrogated by the police, he was released, with the Thai authorities apparently keen to avoid the negative effect on tourism that a murder trial would create.

"This was how he recruited his accomplices: charming and flattering them to the point they became devoted to him"

A CONCEIT TOO FAR

A 1994 profile in *The Independent* identified Sobhraj's strengths, those that helped him evade capture. He was described as being "an expert in gems and psychology; like a diamond-cutter, he has a knack for spotting a flaw in a person's character and reshaping that person to a design of his own evil brilliance".

This was how Sobhraj recruited his accomplices: charming and flattering them to the point that they seemingly became devoted to him. He did likewise to those whose lives he cut short, preying on the wide-eyed and vulnerable. "Young idealists, trusting backpackers and hash-smoking stoners were looking to get lost," wrote Andrew Anthony, "and Sobhraj made sure some of them were never found."

The trio left Thailand for Malaysia, at which point Chowdhury was never seen again, the belief being that Sobhraj had dispatched him for fear of his crimes being exposed. Sobhraj and Leclerc continued their travels – to Switzerland, to India – posing as jewel traders. After notching up another victim in Bombay, Sobhraj finally came unstuck in New Delhi.

The audacity of this latest sting was his undoing. Having tricked a 60-strong group of French postgraduate students into taking anti-dysentery medication (with the intention of robbing them all while they were unconscious), Sobhraj miscalculated the doses. When some of the students were quickly and violently sick, the group realised their new friend had ulterior motives and overpowered him before calling the police.

Sobhraj was detailed at Tihar prison in New Delhi, but went straight on the charm offensive. He had smuggled some gemstones into the jail and used these to

MAMMOTH SCREEN LTD X2, SHUTTERSTOCK X2, GETTY IMAGES X1

ABOVE: **Sobhraj briefly enjoyed celebrity status after returning to Paris as a free man in 1997**

LEFT: **The killer is escorted to New Delhi's Tibar prison during his 1977 trial for attempted robbery**

Sobhraj pictured in 2011, while trying to sue the Nepalese government for unlawful imprisonment

bribe prison officers and ensure he lived in relative comfort. He also turned his trial into a spectacle, going on hunger strike as well as hiring and firing his legal team at will. He was given 12 years' imprisonment for attempted robbery.

IN PLAIN SIGHT

Sobhraj continued to live well in jail, having the luxury of his own television set and dining on fine food. His ability to gain the favour and confidence of others was undiminished. After 10 years inside, though, Sobhraj faced a dilemma. While he was in jail, the murders he'd committed in Thailand had been thoroughly investigated, in particular by a Dutch diplomat, Herman Knippenberg, who had originally been charged with uncovering what had happened to those two Dutch students. Having raided Sobhraj's home, Knippenberg had found a pile of passports and driving licences, suggesting that Sobhraj's victims numbered many more than those known.

Realising that he faced near certain conviction and thus execution in Thailand, Sobhraj then played a masterstroke. With two years left on his sentence, he threw a party in his New Delhi jail for officers and inmates, at which he drugged all the partygoers with sleeping pills and simply walked out of prison. He then 'hid' in clear sight, being apprehended in a restaurant in Goa shortly after. This escape saw his sentence extended by a further 10 years exactly as he had intended. By the time of his release in 1997, the 20 year arrest warrant issued by the Thai authorities had expired. He now couldn't be charged for all those murders in Thailand.

Upon release, Sobhraj returned to Paris where he enjoyed a certain strange celebrity. But this life appeared not exciting enough for him, and he chose to go back into the danger zone. In 2003, he travelled to Nepal where, on the streets of Kathmandu, he was recognised and arrested for the murders of the two North American backpackers in 1975. He was tried and received a life sentence; he is still incarcerated there today.

Even if he turned out not to be the untouchable figure he thought he was, Charles Sobhraj never once doubted himself or his motives. "I can justify the murders to myself," he once claimed, looking back over the mayhem and destruction he left in his wake. "I never killed good people."

Q&A
Preethi Mavahalli

Preethi Mavahalli is the executive producer of *The Serpent*, a new eight-part BBC One drama that reveals how Charles Sobhraj was finally snared for his heinous crimes

How did *The Serpent* come about?
Damien Timmer, joint-managing director of [TV production company] Mammoth Screen, grew up in Bangkok in the 1970s, and director Tom Shankland had been backpacking in Asia, so they both knew about Charles Sobhraj. But it was when we contacted the Dutch diplomat Herman Knippenberg and heard about his role in catching Sobhraj that we found a new story that deserved be told – it hadn't been in the public domain before.

How did you develop the script?
It was a very long and complicated process, and a huge amount of research went into it. We made an effort to reach out to as many people involved in the original case as possible and interviewed them. Herman also had access to files and documents that he was willing to share, so we sat with him and read them for days. We always want to make sure that the script is as accurate and fair as it can be.

What is it about Herman that made him the man who put the pieces together to catch Sobhraj?
Herman has the type of personality that doesn't give up. Once he found out about tourists going missing, he felt that he had a duty to find out more. If it hadn't been for him, who knows if Sobhraj would ever have been caught?

Do you feel that the story is very much rooted in its time?
Yes, it is – Sobhraj was able to just unglue the photos from his victims' passports and stick new ones in. That clearly wouldn't be possible now, and people check in all the time on social media, so you often know where they are.

Do we know what motivated Sobhraj?
His motivations were much less clear compared to those of other notorious killers. Quite a few different things have been suggested: a hatred of westerners; identity issues because he was not adopted by his stepfather and his sister was; the fact that he was stateless for part of his life. We're not trying to claim a reasoning for his actions – I don't think anyone's ever been able to figure that out.

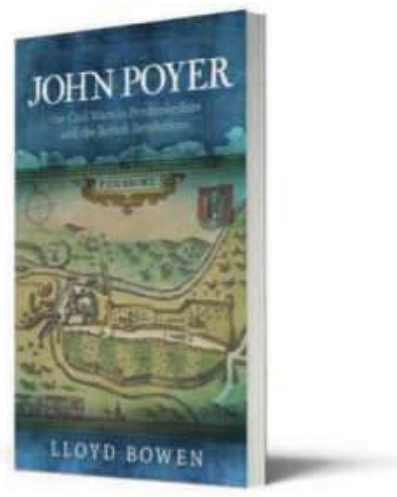
GET HOOKED

WATCH

The eight-part series *The Serpent* is due to begin at 9pm on New Year's Day, on BBC One and BBC iPlayer

Image: Shutterstock

BOOKS OF 2020

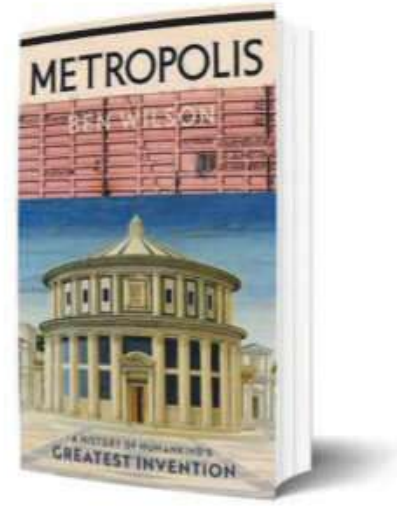


John Poyer: the Civil Wars in Pembrokeshire and the British Revolutions

Lloyd Bowen

uwp.co.uk/book/john-poyer

This is the first book-length study of the 'turncoat' John Poyer, who initiated the Second Civil War of 1648. It explores Poyer's rise from a humble glover to parliament's principal supporter in south Wales, examining his involvement in the murky politics of the post-war period, and the reasons behind his fatal decision to switch his support to the royalists in 1648.

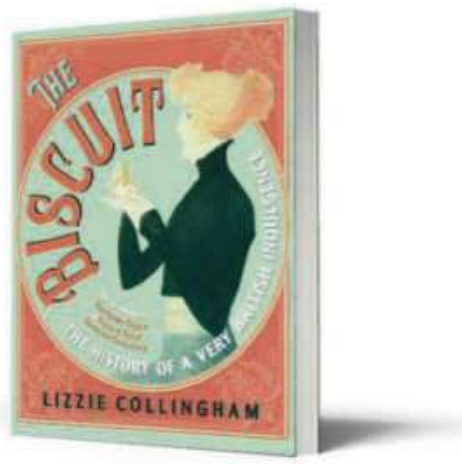


Metropolis: A History of Humankind's Greatest Invention

Ben Wilson

https://bit.ly/metropolisbook

Metropolis is a dazzling, globe-spanning history of humankind's greatest invention – the city. From its earliest incarnations 7,000 years ago to the megalopolises of today, the story of the city is the story of civilisation. The heat cities generate has sparked most of our political, social, commercial, scientific and artistic revolutions. These epoch-defining moments are the focus of the book.

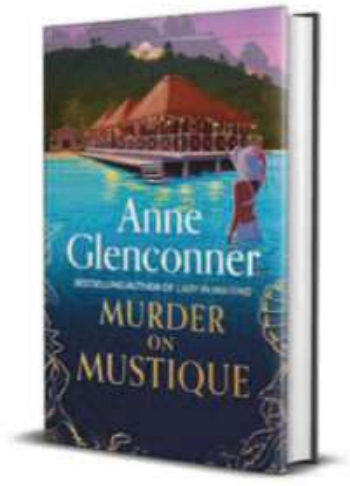


The Biscuit

Lizzie Collingham

waterstones.com/book/the-biscuit/lizzie-collingham/9781847926128

Biscuits are as British as fish and chips or the Sunday roast – and they have been for centuries. In *The Biscuit*, Lizzie Collingham follows its transformation from durable staple for sailors, explorers and colonists to sweet luxury for the middling classes to comfort food for an entire nation. Like an assorted tin of biscuits, this charming and beautifully illustrated book has something for everyone, combining recipes with entertaining vignettes of social history.



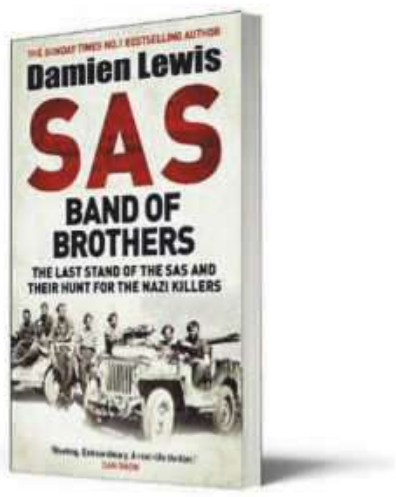
Murder on Mustique

Anne Glenconner

https://fal.cn/3bMaw

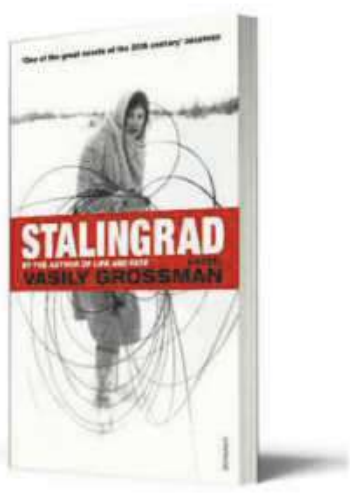
In 2019 Anne Glenconner's memoir *Lady in Waiting* was hailed as the must-read book of the year, spending an astonishing 32 weeks in the *Sunday Times* bestseller list. Now her first novel, a gripping, escapist and witty murder mystery, transports readers to the tropical island of Mustique.

Full of suspense, humour and a memorable cast of characters, *Murder on Mustique* showcases Anne's storytelling flair and wealth of knowledge about the island she loves. It's the perfect escapist read.



SAS Band of Brothers
Damien Lewis
amzn.to/3708QLG

June 1944: the SAS parachute into occupied France. Their mission is to prevent Hitler from rushing his Panzer divisions to the D-Day beaches, driving the Allies back into the sea. Breathtaking and exhaustively researched, *SAS Band of Brothers* is based on new and unseen material from the families of those who were there. It reveals an epic of courage, maverick-spirited daring and bloody betrayal, and a quest for vengeance and justice that lasted to 1948 and beyond.

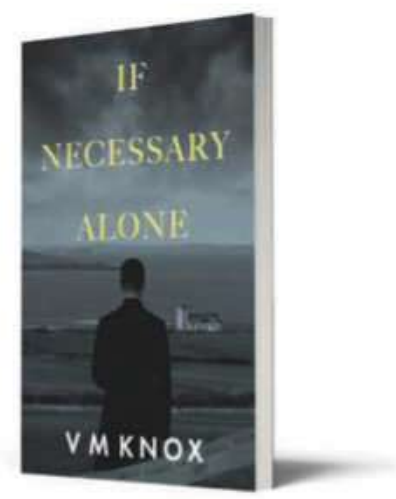


Stalingrad
Vasily Grossman
translated by Robert Chandler
penguin.co.uk

'One of the great novels of the 20th Century' Observer
In April 1942, Hitler and Mussolini plan the huge offensive on the Eastern Front that will culminate in the greatest battle in human history: Stalingrad. A multitude of lives and fates are played out against a city under siege. *Stalingrad* – the prequel to *Life and Fate*, now available in English for the first time – is a magnificent novel not only of war but of all human life.

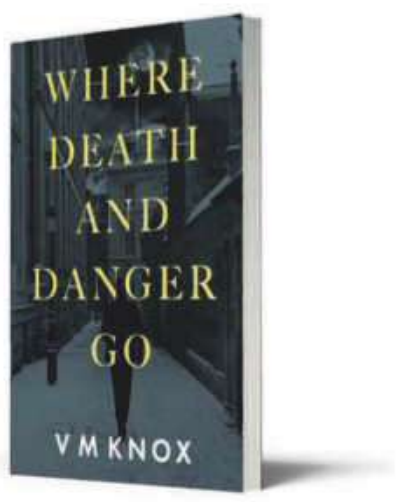
In Spite of All Terror
V M Knox
vmknoxauthor.com

In Spite of All Terror is the first in a series of WWII crime thrillers. Set in September 1940, when Britain stood alone against an imminent Nazi invasion, Reverend Clement Wisdom and others from the restricted occupations, join the covert Auxiliary Units. These ordinary men by day must become saboteurs and assassins by night. Following the murders of several of Clement's team, he becomes embroiled in the murky world of espionage where things are never what they seem.



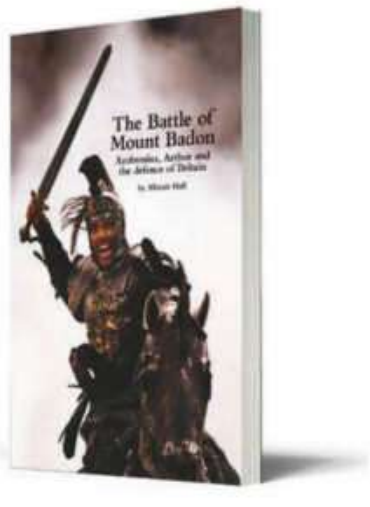
If Necessary, Alone
V M Knox
vmknoxauthor.com

If Necessary Alone is the second thriller in this World War II crime series. Clement Wisdom, now a Major in Special Duties Branch, Secret Intelligence Service, is sent to remote Caithness to investigate illicit encrypted radio transmissions. As soon as he arrives there, an out-station wireless operator is found brutally murdered and Clement becomes entangled in a web of death and silence. Alone, and in the bitter Scottish winter, Clement must stay one step ahead of a killer if he is to remain alive.



Where Death and Danger Go
V M Knox
vmknoxauthor.com

Where Death and Danger Go is set in the dark days of 1941. Britain fights on alone. Invasion and fear hang in the air. On a winter's night, a German spy parachutes into Cambridgeshire as another man is murdered nearby. Is he another enemy spy or has he been sent to his death? Either way, a killer lurks. Major Clement Wisdom of the SIS is sent to investigate and discovers a web of conspiracy where kidnap, murder and revenge threaten his life and the safety of the nation.

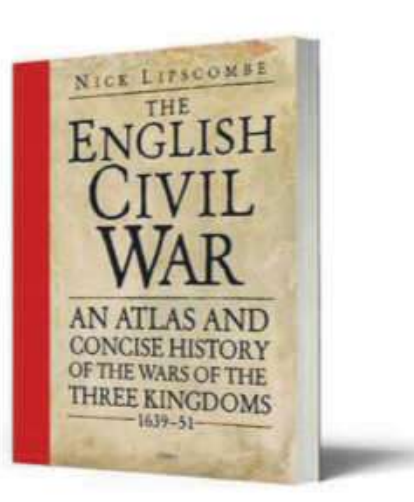


The Battle of Mount Badon, Ambrosius, Arthur and the defence of Britain
Alistair Hall
ravenfell.co.uk

When the Romans abandoned Britain how did the Anglo-Saxons so quickly present the "invincible force" described by Bede and which "kings of the Britons" eventually defeated them? With a stunning new perspective, this book provides answers that not only justify Arthur's historicity, but also challenge the perceived chronology of the fifth century.

The NHS: Britain's National Health Service, 1948–2020
Susan Cohen
shirebooks.co.uk

This informative and timely introduction traces the history of the NHS from its establishment after World War II, through seven decades of changing management and organisation, all the way up to the current health crisis. Featuring personal recollections from nurses and doctors on the frontlines, as well as the patients in their care, *The NHS* is a beautifully illustrated history of Britain's most revered and valued institution.



The English Civil War: An Atlas and Concise History of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms 1639–51
Nick Lipscombe
ospreypublishing.com

With over 150 maps, this beautifully presented Atlas tells the complete story of the revolutionary civil wars from 1639 to 1651. *The English Civil War* brings together the latest research for the battles, sieges and engagements, and each map is supported by a detailed explanation of the complex and fluctuating conflict, which represents a profound turning point in Britain's history.

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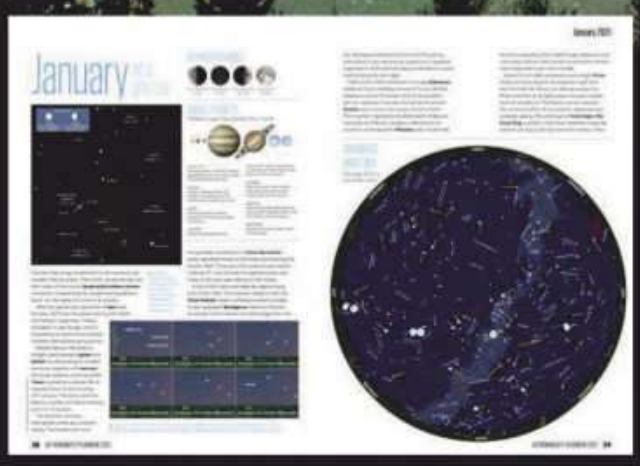

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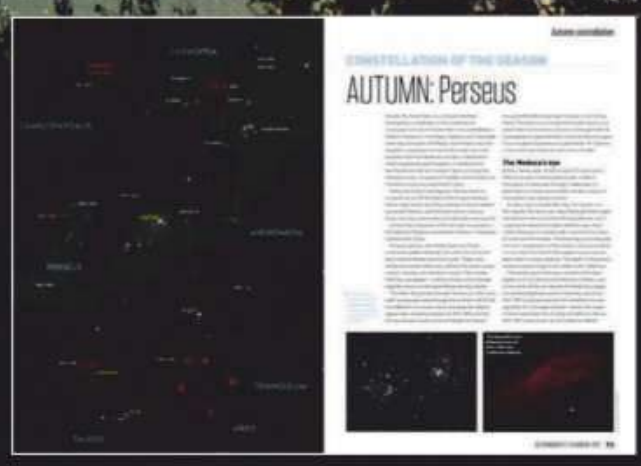

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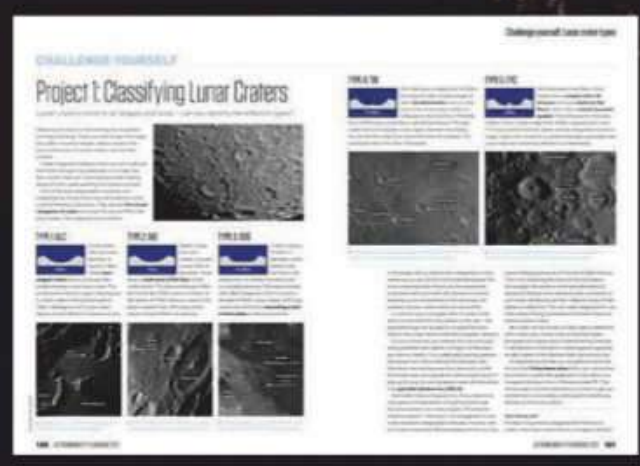

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TOP 10 ENTREPRENEURS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

From cars to coffee, the entrepreneurial spirit of these 10 figures would go on to change the lives of generations of people all around the globe

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

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1

JOHANNES GUTENBERG

c1390/99–1468

Where would we be without the printed word? By 1450, Johannes Gutenberg had transformed the world with his printing press. Soon, news and ideas were flowing between towns, countries and even continents, and access to printed material such as books became widespread, rather than being restricted to just the clergy and nobility. Born in the German city of Mainz, Gutenberg began devising contraptions when he fell on hard times – and one of these was the printing press. Prior to the invention of Gutenberg's device, copies of text were created by hand. The printing press, combined with metal movable type, now made this time-consuming task obsolete.

"News and ideas were soon flowing between towns, countries and even continents"

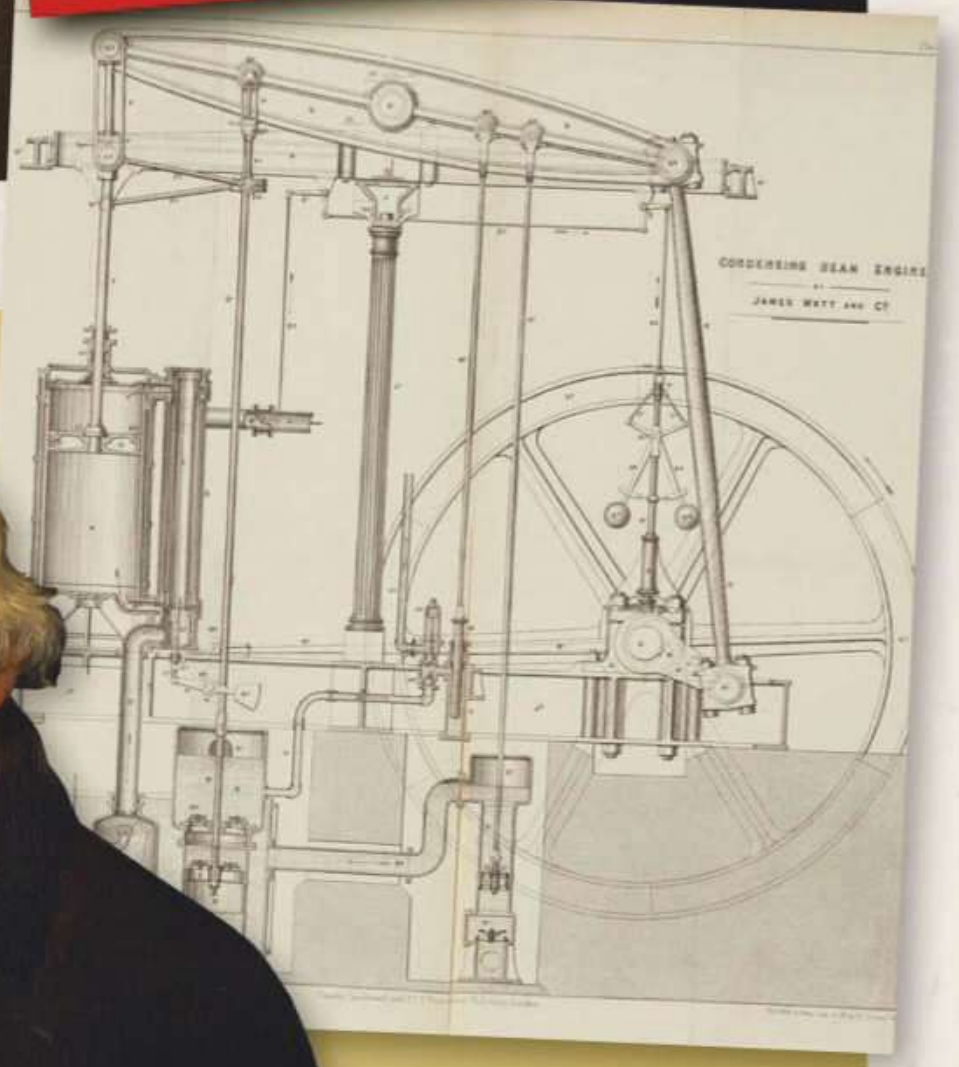
Gutenberg's famous invention, based on a winepress, made publishing quicker

2

JAMES WATT

1736–1819

Although Scottish engineer James Watt didn't invent the steam engine himself, the improvements he made to Thomas Newcomen's earlier models helped make steam power the driving force behind the Industrial Revolution. Backed by the Birmingham manufacturer Matthew Boulton, Watt's adapted steam engine was more powerful and fuel-efficient than any of its predecessors, and soon it was being installed in mills and mines across Britain. By 1800, the Boulton and Watt partnership had supplied about 450 steam engines around the world, each capable of powering entire factories. Widely lauded during his lifetime, Watt died a wealthy man and with a total of six patents to his name.



The watt – a measure of mechanical and electrical power – is named in honour of steam engine pioneer James Watt

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3

MADAM CJ WALKER

1867–1919

With her haircare empire, Madam CJ Walker became one of the United States' first self-made female millionaires. Born Sarah Breedlove in Louisiana - the first in her family to be born after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 – the entrepreneur originally made a living as a domestic servant, before selling haircare products door-to-door. Following the death of her first husband and the failure of her second marriage, she restyled herself as Madam CJ Walker, using her third husband's name, and set about creating her very own range of haircare products for black women. She recruited a network of sellers, expanding into the Caribbean and Central America, and gifted much to charity – including a substantial donation to an anti-lynching fund.

Walker suffered from hair loss and was keen to develop and market products that would help solve the problem for other women

4

MELITTA BENTZ

1873–1950

German housewife Melitta Bentz set out to find a simple way to prevent coffee from over-brewing and ended up creating a bestselling brand. In her Dresden kitchen, Bentz invented the world's first-ever coffee filter using blotting paper and a brass pot with holes punched into the top. After realising its success, she acquired a patent and set up a business with her husband and sons in 1908. The invention went down a storm at the Leipzig trade fair, and soon, Bentz was able to start hiring her own staff. Notably, all employees worked a five-day week and received a Christmas bonus – both rare privileges for the time. Today, the Melitta Group is run by Bentz's grandchildren and sells coffee, filters and coffee-makers across the globe.

Melitta Bentz's simple invention revolutionised the way that coffee is consumed

5

HENRY FORD

1863–1947

Ford pioneered the use of assembly lines in his factories and made automobiles more affordable for millions of American consumers

Henry Ford's Model T automobile, introduced in the US in 1908, transformed travel as we know it. Born in Wayne county, Michigan, Ford was interested in mechanics from a young age and became convinced that petrol-powered engines were the way forward. After the founding, and failures, of two shortlived automobile companies, Ford created the Ford Motor Company in 1903 – the company would go on to sell 15 million Model T vehicles by 1927. Crucially, Ford also introduced the world's first moving assembly lines in his factories. This novel concept radically improved levels of production, as it meant that vehicles could be made both quickly and en masse.

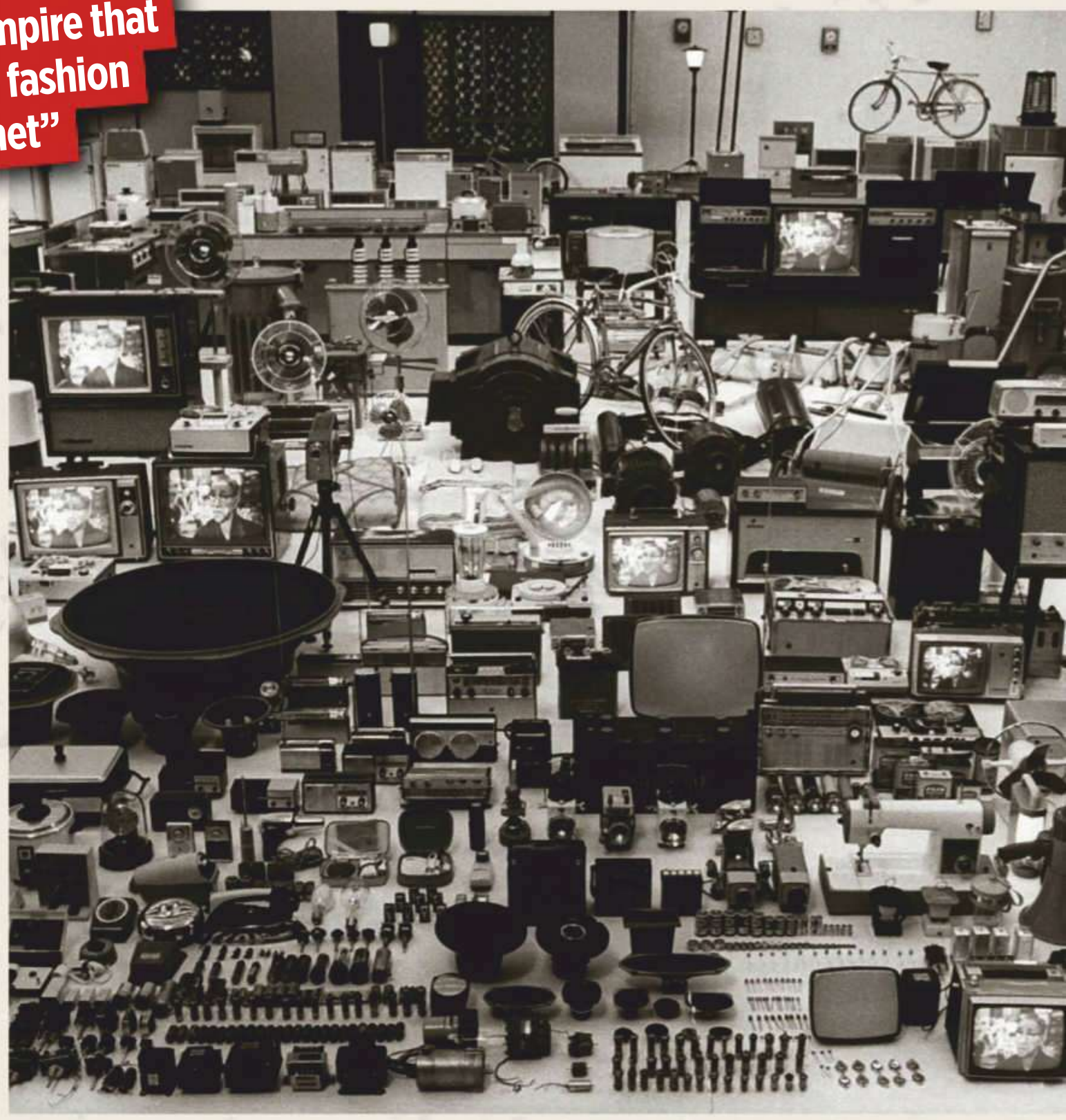
6
COCO CHANEL
1883–1971

After World War II, Chanel revived her couture house, rebelling against the new wave of fashion led by designers such as Dior

Gabrielle Bonheur 'Coco' Chanel came from humble origins but created a business empire that survived both World Wars and remains one of the top fashion houses on the planet, although her success is complicated by her suspected collaboration with German intelligence operations during World War II.

Born in a poorhouse, Chanel was sent to a convent aged 12 following the death of her mother, where she was taught to sew. She opened a hat shop in Paris, followed by a boutique that sold ladies' sportswear. Women were desperate for practical clothing during World War I, making Chanel's designs a success – her 'little black dress' was launched in 1926, and she also expanded into perfumes, jewellery and cosmetics.

"Chanel came from humble origins but created a business empire that remains one of the top fashion houses on the planet"



7
KONOSUKE MATSHUSITA
1894–1989

At the age of four, Konosuke Matshusita's family lost their farm in southern Japan and were forced to move to the city. At just nine years old, he was sent to work as an apprentice in Osaka, before joining the Osaka Electric Light Company. While there, Matshusita came up with a design that improved the electrical socket and quit his job to take it to market.

Sales remained low initially, but a huge order allowed the young entrepreneur to create his own company – Matshusita Electric Housewares Manufacturing Works – in 1918. Hoping to make electrical appliances more easily affordable, the firm began to mass-produce items such as irons. Now known as Panasonic, today the iconic company is one of the world's leading electrical manufacturers.

Matshusita surrounded by some of the devices manufactured by his company

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Henry pictured with one of her many inventions: a realistic baby-doll, which could be bathed

8

BEULAH LOUISE HENRY

1887–1973

Beulah Louise Henry was an American entrepreneur with so many inventions to her name that she was nicknamed 'Lady Edison' (after the famous inventor Thomas Edison). Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, she got her first patent in 1912 for a vacuum ice cream freezer. She later founded two companies and moved to New York, where she carved out a career as one of the most prolific inventors of the 1920s.

Henry was driven by a desire to improve everyday life, especially for women. Some of her other creations included a hair curler and the double-chain stitch sewing machine, which freed up valuable time for seamstresses. By the end of her working life, Henry had 49 patents and 100 inventions under her belt.

Biddy gave herself the surname 'Mason' after San Bernardino's mayor

9

BRIDGET 'BIDDY' MASON

1818–91

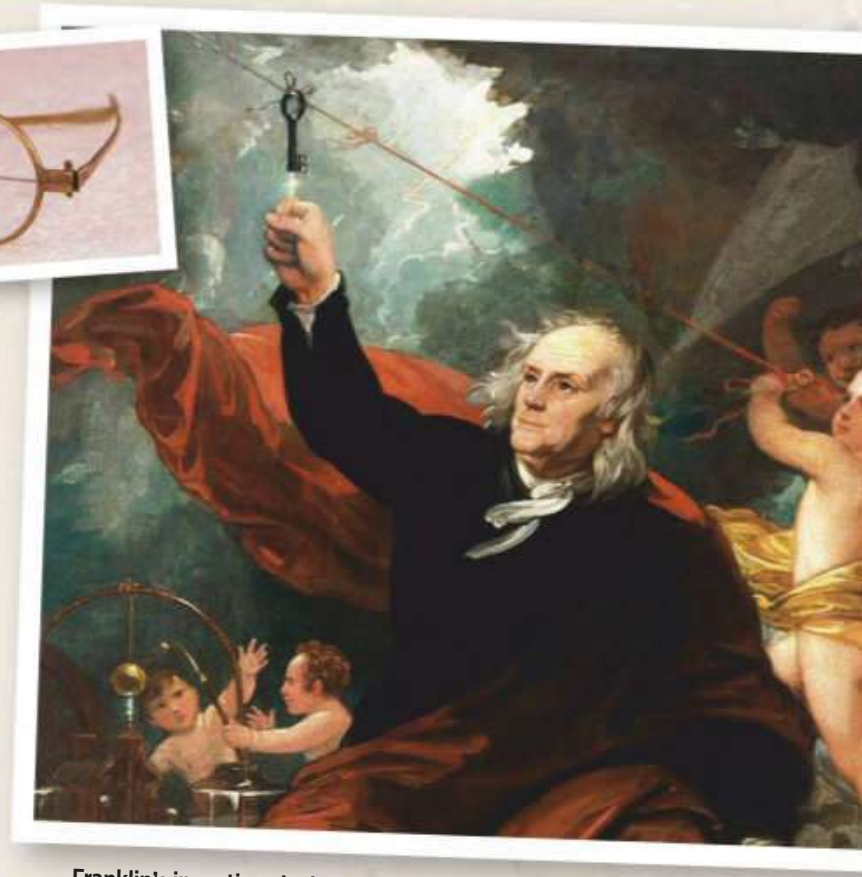
Born into slavery in Mississippi, Biddy was taken with her three children to San Bernardino, California, in 1851, when her owner moved there. Slavery was illegal in California by this time, so with the help of some friends who had already been freed, she successfully petitioned local judges for her emancipation. After moving further west to Los Angeles, Biddy's nursing skills – which she had learned as a slave – were in high demand, and she eventually made enough money to start investing in property. By 1891, Biddy had earned $300,000, most of which she gave away to charity and used to create the very first African-American church in Los Angeles.

10

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1706–90

One of the Founding Fathers of the United States, Benjamin Franklin was a successful entrepreneur and became incredibly wealthy. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Franklin worked for his candle-maker father from the age of 10 and spent most of his earnings on books. He was then employed by his brother, a printer, and in 1728 set up a printing partnership with a friend – becoming sole proprietor two years later. Franklin later went on to create the first franchising system in America, and – ever the inventor – was responsible for designing both the lightning rod and bifocal glasses, among many other useful devices.



Franklin's inventions included the lightning rod, which he developed while trying to prove the link between lightning and electricity

WHAT IF... THE SOVIETS WON THE RACE TO THE MOON?

Jonny Wilkes talks to **Dr Thomas Ellis** about how the US would have reacted to losing the Space Race, and which Soviet cosmonaut would have made the one giant leap

Instead of Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, and the "one small step...", imagine if the world watched as a Soviet cosmonaut took the giant leap for mankind by landing on the Moon. With the raising of the hammer and sickle, he would signal victory in the biggest of Space Race contests and return to Earth a hero of all time. "There would have been huge celebrations in the Soviet Union," says Dr Thomas Ellis, Teaching Fellow at the London School of Economics, "with parades and ceremonies symbolically linking the space heroes to the Communist Party's role as the unquestioned guiding force."

By cementing their superiority in space – having taken the lead with Sputnik 1 and never losing it on their way to the Moon – the Soviets would have secured a decisive blow in the political economic battle against US capitalism. "Sputniks 1 and 2 in 1957, and the flight of Yuri Gagarin in 1961, were held up as proof that Soviet claims of communism being the wave of the future weren't entirely empty," says Ellis. The continuing 'firsts' in space demonstrated Russia's transformation from a "technologically backwards medieval despotism to a Space Age socialist society".

For a successful Moonshot, though, they needed to improve administration of their space programme. While the US efficiently focused efforts towards a single project, Apollo, the Soviets contended with multiple bodies competing for funding and resources. "It was a byzantine system beset by internal rivalry, nepotistic patronage and wasteful duplication," says Ellis. Such disorganisation had to be resolved and significant investment made to the longer term prize of a Moon landing rather than the short term prestige of collecting 'firsts'.

In essence, Ellis points out, the Soviets' programme had to behave "like the American image of it" – centrally directed, well funded and with the full backing of the Communist Party. This may have been more attainable had Sergei Korolev lived. As 'Glavny Konstruktor' (Chief Designer), Korolev had built the rocket that put Sputnik and Gagarin into orbit and was of such importance to the space programme that his name was only made public after his death in 1966. Had he lived longer, Korolev would have continued to be a crucial cog in the machine to achieve crewed space flight and in developing the N1 rocket (the Soviet version of the Saturn V).

ARMSTRONG'S ALTERNATIVE?

But who was destined to be the Soviet Neil Armstrong? While the US Apollo project used a three man crew, weight restrictions meant the Soviet lander could accommodate only one cosmonaut. Alexei Leonov, who in 1965 became the first person to conduct a spacewalk, is widely believed to have been the likely candidate for the solo trip to the Moon's surface. Ellis says, "In 1966, he was assigned to lead a group of cosmonauts to train for lunar landing flights," among them Vostok 4 cosmonaut Pavel Popovich, potentially the second crew member.

Their Moon landing would have been a "huge, much needed prestige boost for the Soviet Union both at home and abroad", says Ellis, and been immediately accompanied with a propaganda drive as Leonov and Popovich received the ticker tape parades and adulation. "Like the Apollo astronauts, these lunar cosmonauts would have followed a hero's welcome in the homeland with a victory lap tour around the world. Within a year, they'd grow sick of banquets where they had

IN CONTEXT

The Space Race was a Cold War battle of the US and Soviet Union's technological, military, political and economic superiority – without the world-ending implications of nuclear weapons. The Soviets seized an early lead on 4 October 1957 with the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, and followed with the first human in space, Yuri Gagarin, on 12 April 1961. But when chief rocket engineer Sergei Korolev died in 1966, Soviet efforts stalled and the US caught up.

In 1961, President John F Kennedy had announced the goal of putting a man on the Moon and returning him safely "before this decade is out". Thanks to greater finances, technological breakthroughs and a focused, unified commitment at NASA, this goal was achieved on 20 July 1969 with Apollo 11. As Neil Armstrong spoke the immortal words, "One small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind", the US effectively declared victory in the Space Race.

Kennedy himself championed the US goal to put a man on the Moon

GETTY IMAGES X3

to explain 'what it felt like' to be on the Moon to presidents, monarchs and celebrities."

As the Soviets revelled in the acclaim, a sober, downtrodden and defeated mood would likely have pervaded the US. "Publicly, there would be gracious congratulations and invites to the White House. Privately, President Nixon would have been seething," says Ellis. And in NASA itself, the atmosphere was likely to be one of "misery and frustration". The politicians already calling for a reduction in NASA's budget might have greeted a Soviet Moon landing with a "sour grapes response that disparaged space racing as the sort of propagandistic spectacle best left to the communists".

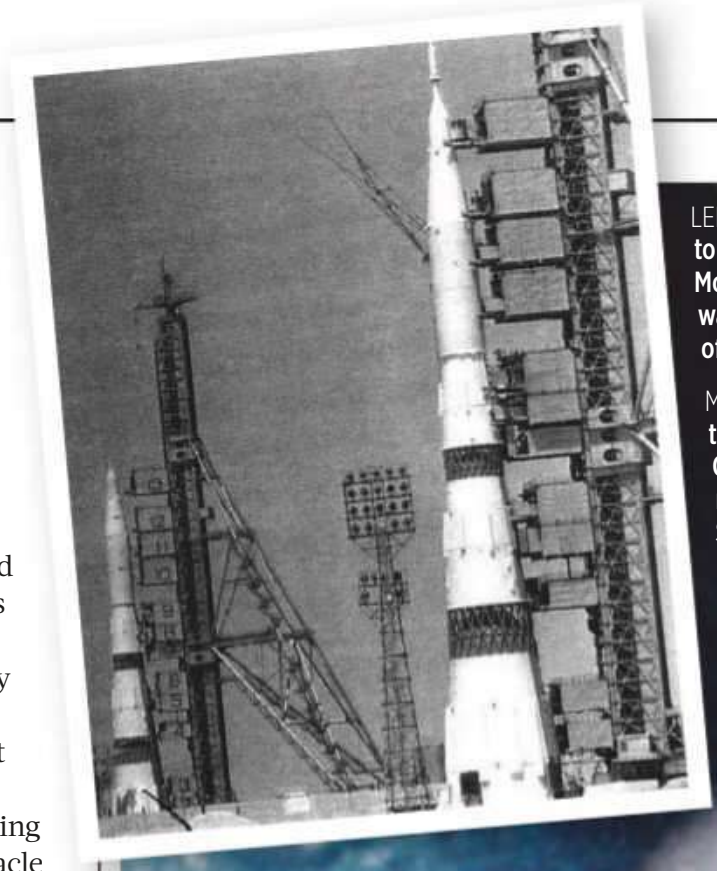
Across the US, there may have been a surge of righteous anger at the colossal amounts being spent on space exploration and for nought if they kept coming behind the Soviets especially, according to Ellis, in the face of Americans of colour living with discrimination and poverty. He says: "Defeat in the race to the Moon combined with the more serious crises of legitimacy prompted by Vietnam and Watergate would have made the 1970s an even gloomier decade."

The US could have either backed down and accepted defeat, which would have been unthinkable to many given the Cold War implications, or redoubled its commitment to catch up, resulting in an endless cycle of one upmanship. "The Soviets would undoubtedly have continued exploring space," says Ellis, and would have likely still spent the 1970s focusing on developing their space station programme. There may have been pressure for even more impressive missions, including, suggests, Ellis, an eventual circumnavigation of Mars. But the more they worked to maintain their superiority in space, the more pressure would build on the Soviet economy.

"A successful Moonshot might well have provided a new potent diplomatic and propaganda tool, and led to an uptick in membership for Third World communist parties," says Ellis. "Prestige is powerful, but it wouldn't have invalidated the economic and political weaknesses." In fact, a Soviet Moon landing may have ended up underlining the Soviet economy's deep rooted structural problems. Ellis says, "It is difficult to imagine a Moonshot preventing the ultimate collapse of the Soviet Union."

NEXT MONTH

What if... Julius Caesar hadn't been assassinated?



LEFT: **The N1 rocket was intended to send cosmonauts to the Moon – in reality, the design was scrapped after a string of launch failures**

MAIN: **Alexei Leonov during the first spacewalk, in 1965. Could he have been the first man on the Moon had the Soviets won the Space Race?**

DID YOU KNOW?

FROM SCHOOL TO THE STARS

In 1958, the same year that NASA was founded, President Dwight Eisenhower invested heavily in schools and universities with the National Defense Education Act to ensure the US was producing the brightest minds to win the Space Race.

"THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE SECURED A DECISIVE BLOW IN THE POLITICAL-ECONOMIC BATTLE AGAINST US CAPITALISM"

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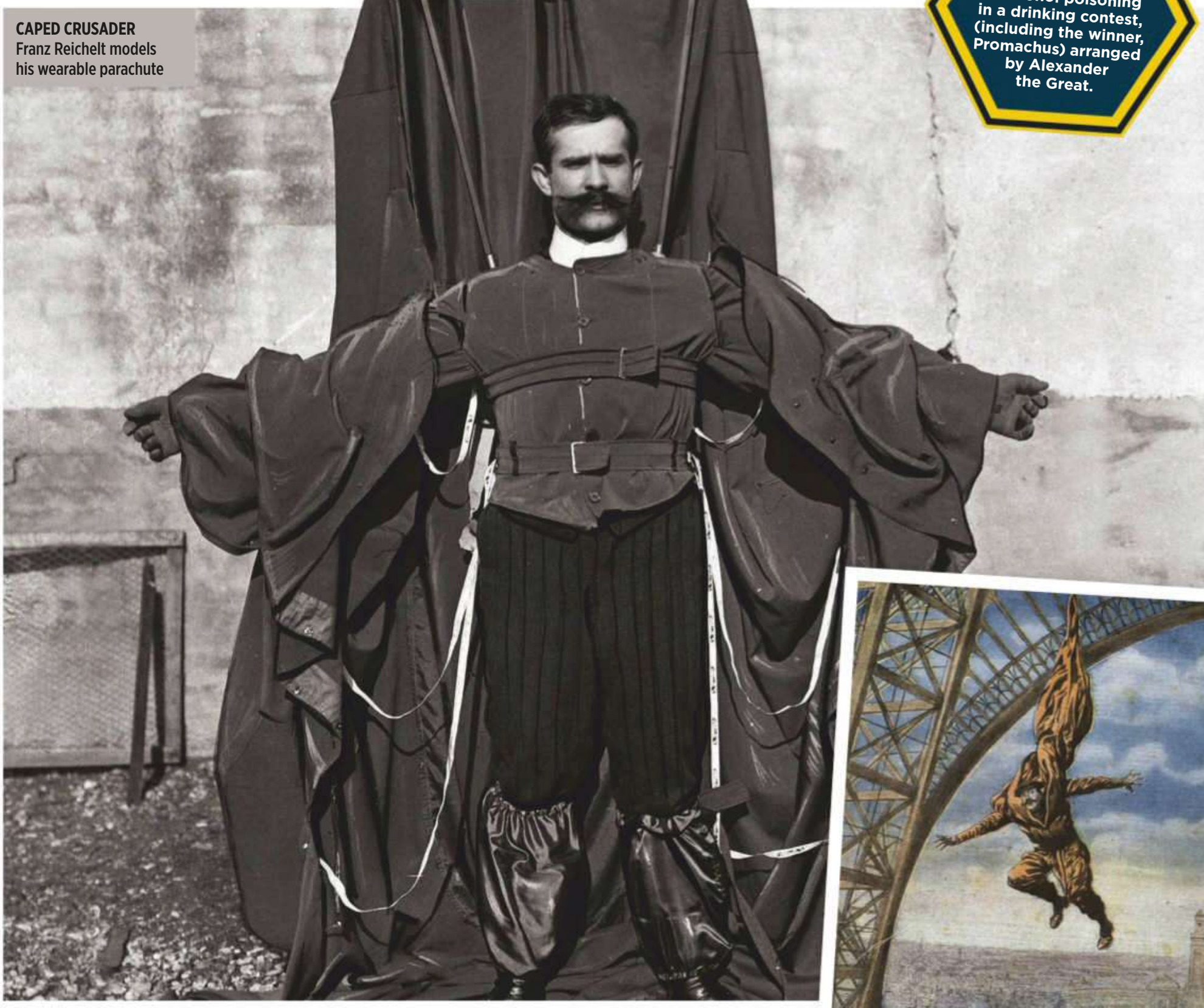
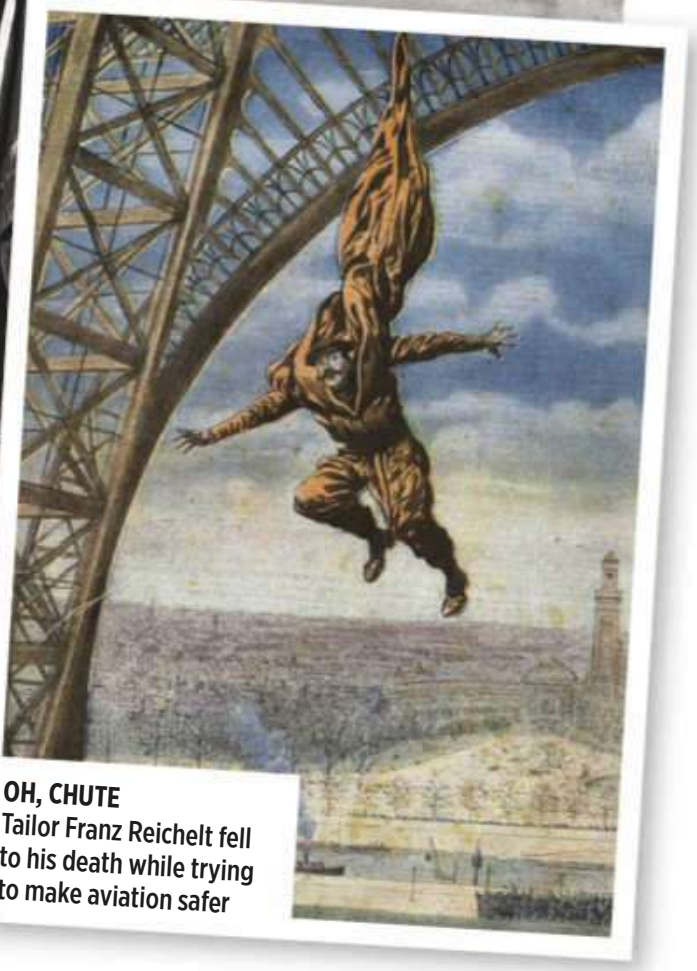
42

The number of people who died of alcohol poisoning in a drinking contest, (including the winner, Promachus) arranged by Alexander the Great.



CAPED CRUSADER
Franz Reichelt models his wearable parachute



OH, CHUTE
Tailor Franz Reichelt fell to his death while trying to make aviation safer

Has anyone tried to fly from the Eiffel Tower?

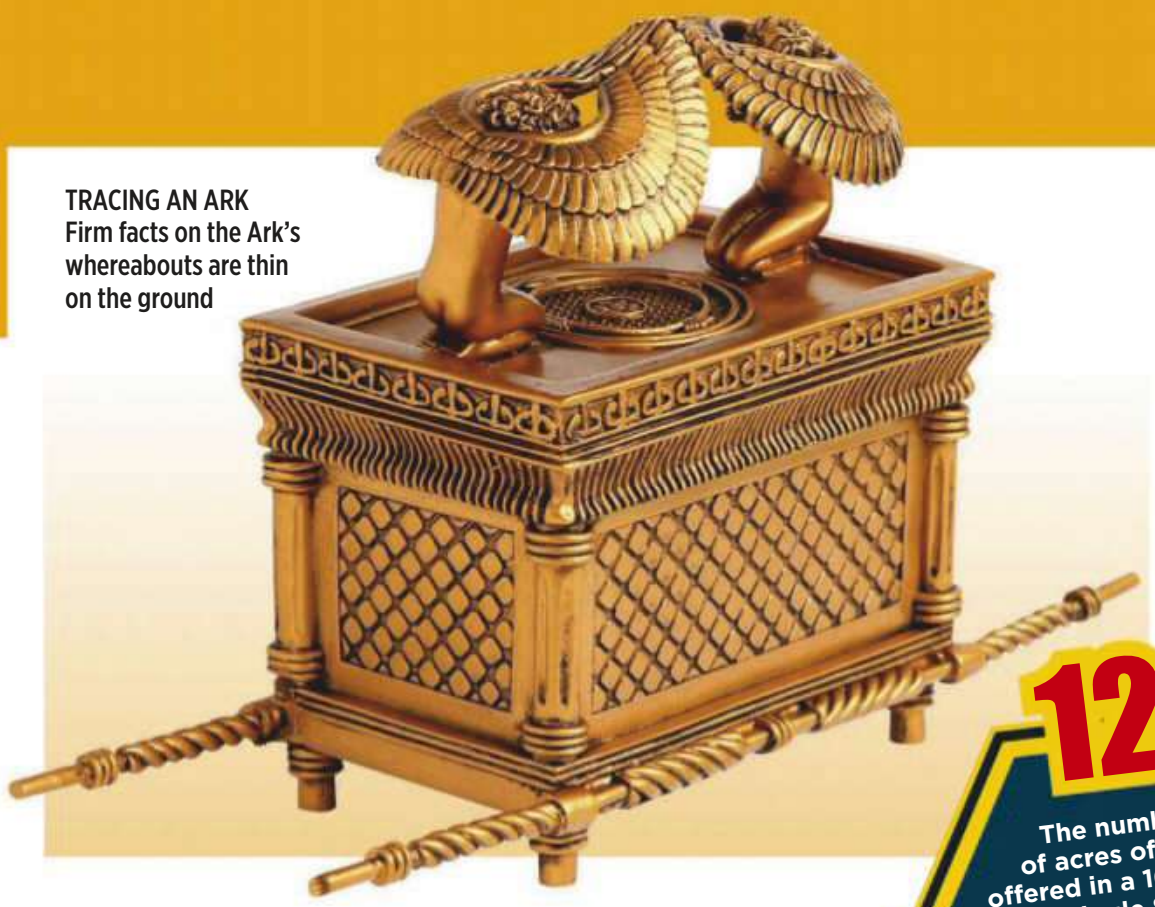
SHORT ANSWER Well, they didn't call poor Franz Reichelt the 'Flying Tailor' for nothing

LONG ANSWER In the early days of aviation, pilot safety became a priority issue rather quickly. The parachute had long been a firm favourite, but a Bohemian tailor living in Paris had lofty ambitions for his revolutionary lifesaver. Franz Reichelt made a wearable parachute, essentially an extremely baggy suit that unfurled and caught the wind (like an early 20th-century version of today's wingsuit).

Spurred by a prize of 10,000 francs, promised by the Aéro-Club de France for a parachute design, Reichelt saw a chance to prevent any more of the tragedies that had accompanied the advances in aviation. Instead, he became another one. Reichelt carried out several tests from the window of his fifth-floor apartment using a dummy before moving on to a human guinea-pig – himself. Despite lots of failed jumps, one broken leg and countless warnings from friends, Reichelt remained convinced that his suit would work from a greater height.

On 4 February 1912, the 'Flying Tailor' climbed to the first stage of the Eiffel Tower, nearly 60 metres high, and leaped into the Parisian air. He then plummeted to the Parisian ground, his parachute utterly failing to slow his descent. The whole thing was caught on camera.

GETTY IMAGES X2



TRACING AN ARK
Firm facts on the Ark's whereabouts are thin on the ground

What happened to the Ark of the Covenant?

SHORT ANSWER For those who don't believe it's safe, and unseen, in an Ethiopian church, the search continues

LONG ANSWER This has nothing to do with Indiana Jones, sadly. The gold-plated chest made 3,000 years ago to house the two stone tablets on which Moses inscribed the ten commandments disappeared from all records in the sixth century, around the time the Israelites were conquered by the Babylonian empire.

Several theories try to explain the Ark's whereabouts. The Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion in Aksum, Ethiopia, asserts to this day that it took possession after the chest was smuggled out of Jerusalem, but only a select few can look upon it. Harder to swallow claims say the Ark went to Europe during the Crusades. Alternatively, it may have never left Jerusalem. That's where adventurer Ron Wyatt supposedly found it, without proffering any proof, in 1982 the year after the film *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark* came out. What a coincidence!

12
The number of acres of land offered in a 1637 sale for a single Semper Augustus tulip bulb during the Tulip Mania in the Netherlands.

Who was given the first Hollywood star?

SHORT ANSWER Two stars from the world of cinema may hold the honour...

LONG ANSWER The Walk of Fame is an icon of the glitzy and glamorous home of US movies: around 2,700 stars, and counting, on the sidewalks of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street in Los Angeles bearing the names of the biggest figures in the entertainment industry.

EM Stuart, volunteer president of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, came up with the idea in 1953, hoping it would "maintain the glory of a community whose name means glamour and excitement in the four corners of the world".

Multi-award-winning actress Joanne Woodward's star is often said to have come first as hers was one of eight prototypes laid during construction. Her name had been drawn at random. The first star after the official ground breaking, however, belonged to *High Noon* director Stanley Kramer.

STAR STRUCK
Joanne Woodward's (*inset*) star was the first of eight prototypes to be placed

RED OR DEAD
Being able to quote the Little Red Book could literally save your life

What was the Little Red Book?

SHORT ANSWER A propaganda masterstroke and potential lifesaver in Chairman Mao's China

LONG ANSWER *Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong* is a collection of 267 quotes and aphorisms from, you guessed it, the Chairman of Communist China, Mao Zedong. "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun," remains one of the more famous lines from the pocket-sized volume of soundbite philosophies, in its red vinyl cover. Published as a propaganda boost to Mao's cult of personality, he had the aim of distributing a copy to every single citizen, and printing houses were built to churn them out by the million.

Owning the 'Little Red Book' essentially became a requirement in China and could save a person's life. During the Cultural Revolution – a decade of political and social chaos, starting in 1964, which resulted in a crippled economy and perhaps millions dead – Mao's Red Guards targeted anyone they thought to be unfaithful to Maoist thought. Those able to quote from the book would be spared.

GETTY IMAGES X56, ALAMY X3

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER
Rommel's quest to deliver a birthday gift meant he missed the Normandy landings

Why wasn't Rommel at D-Day?

SHORT ANSWER The German general thought he had time to deliver a birthday present. He was wrong

LONG ANSWER German field marshal Erwin Rommel veteran of the North Africa campaign, where he earned the respect of the Nazi elite and World War II foes alike was entrusted with defending northwest France from Allied forces. While the Germans didn't know where the attack would come, Rommel set to work strengthening coastal defences the so called Atlantic Wall.

Gun batteries and bunkers were dug into the countryside, iron 'hedgehogs' littered the beaches and thousands of 'Rommel's asparagus' (posts with mines or explosives on top) placed in fields to deter airborne landings. Rommel would have gone further, requesting panzer tank divisions on the coastline, but Hitler didn't agree. Still, Fortress Europe seemed impregnable.

Rommel certainly must have felt confident, especially with a terrible storm battering the English Channel in early June, as he popped home to Germany to celebrate his wife's birthday, taking with him a pair of shoes as a present. Other officers similarly left for a quick break.

These personal visits perfectly coincided with the Normandy landings on 6 June 1944, launched during a break in the storms; by the time Rommel returned to his post some 160,000 Allied troops had made it onto French soil.

DID YOU KNOW?

FUR-ST CLASS

In the 1870s, postal workers in the Belgian city of Liege attempted to train 37 cats to deliver the mail (fastened around their necks in waterproof bags). The experiment was not a success: the cats just wandered off.

HOWZAT?! ELEMENTARY!

In 1903, Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle was batting in a cricket match at Lord's when the ball hit him on the thigh and ignited the box of matches in his pocket, causing his trousers to catch fire.

NAILED IT

When HMS *Dolphin* anchored in Tahiti in 1767, the British sailors found local women willing to trade iron for sexual favours. This deal had to be stopped when the huge loss of iron nails started compromising the *Dolphin*'s structural integrity.

AMETHYST ANONYMOUS

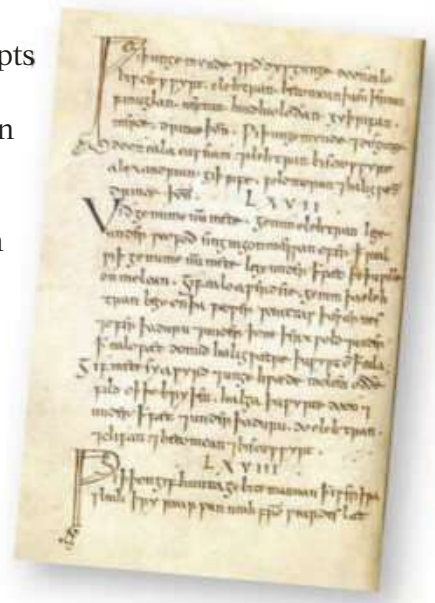
Several civilisations, including the Greeks and medieval Europe, believed that amethyst counteracted the effects of alcohol. Drinking cups would be made from the precious stone to prevent drunkenness.

What medical remedies were in Bald's Leechbook?

SHORT ANSWER Muscle pain? Warts? Demonic possession? All you need is the Anglo-Saxon version of *Gray's Anatomy*

LONG ANSWER Like any good textbook, the 9th or 10th century Anglo Saxon manuscripts known as *Bald's Leechbook* (*right*) were added to and annotated over the years centuries, actually so contain too many remedies and treatments to recount. The three volumes cover all sorts.

According to the text, headaches could be treated with crushed beetroot, honey and plenty of sun; swollen eyes needed a crab's eyes tied around the neck; warts should be rubbed with dog urine and mouse blood; while shingles required the bark of 15 different trees. It had to contend with spiritual symptoms, too, suggesting herbal remedies drunk from a church bell to prevent demonic possession and how to cure horses afflicted with elves.



Why was Black Beauty banned?

SHORT ANSWER In Apartheid-era South Africa, even the title was problematic

LONG ANSWER Anyone who has read *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell may struggle to see what could make it controversial. It's a heart-warming tale about a brave and intelligent horse. The problem of this 1877 book was the title, which gave cause for concern in Apartheid-era South Africa. Representatives of the government, which institutionalised racial segregation from 1948 to the 1990s, saw the words 'black' and 'beauty' and shuddered at the thought that the book may contain inappropriate sentiments or promote black rights. They banned the novel briefly, until, presumably, someone actually read it.

SLEEP TIGHT
Heath Ledger's character spends a night 'bundled' in the 2000 film *The Patriot*, when he spends the night with a girl he is courting

Why would a man get in a 'bundling bag'?

SHORT ANSWER To move to the next level of wooing their beloved

LONG ANSWER Young courting couples struggled to find any time to be alone together in the world of chaperones, watchful parents and strict rules of propriety seen in 18th century Europe and colonial America. One of the solutions was 'bundling', also called 'tarrying', a form of sleepover complete with rudimentary sleeping bag.

The man, or sometimes the woman too, would be tightly wrapped in a blanket, perhaps with their legs tied, or sewn into the sheets in what was called a 'bundling bag'. A wooden board or sacking might then be placed in the middle of the bed as a physical barrier. The couple could then spend the night together, fully clothed, and enjoy some intimate chatting and wooing, with parents safe in the knowledge that there could be no pre marital funny business.

Bundling didn't always work, though, as it seems that the number of pregnancies before marriage rose, inexplicably.

4
The speed, in miles per hour, of a car in 1896 when it hit a pedestrian, resulting in Britain's first-ever automobile fatality.

When did we stop using canaries in mines?

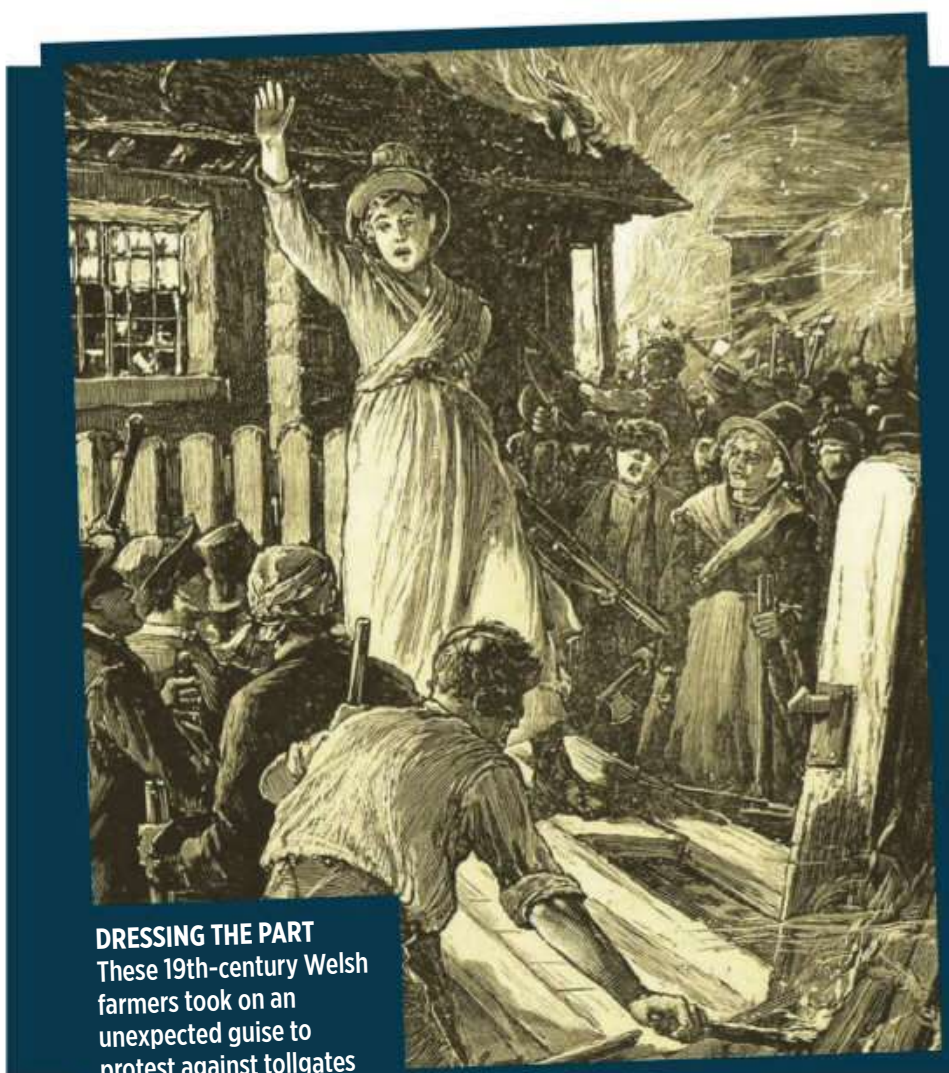
SHORT ANSWER Perhaps not as long ago as you'd think – a little more than 30 years ago

LONG ANSWER Sending a canary in a cage down into a pit to check for dangerous gases – it had to be a Victorian idea born of the Industrial Revolution, didn't it?

The little yellow birds entered the British mining workplace in the late 1890s on the suggestion of Scottish physiologist and all-round expert on gases, John Scott Haldane. Canaries are extremely sensitive to colourless and odourless gases such as carbon monoxide, so would stop chirping, act distressed or drop down dead – serving as a warning to the human miners to evacuate. Mice also made for effective gas detectors, too.

The practice only came to an end some 34 years ago, in December 1986, when technology caught up with an electronic detector, and around 200 canaries were made redundant.

A BIRD IN THE HAND
Welsh miner Charlie Williams carries a canary in a cage in 1965



DRESSING THE PART
These 19th-century Welsh farmers took on an unexpected guise to protest against tollgates

What were the Rebecca Riots?

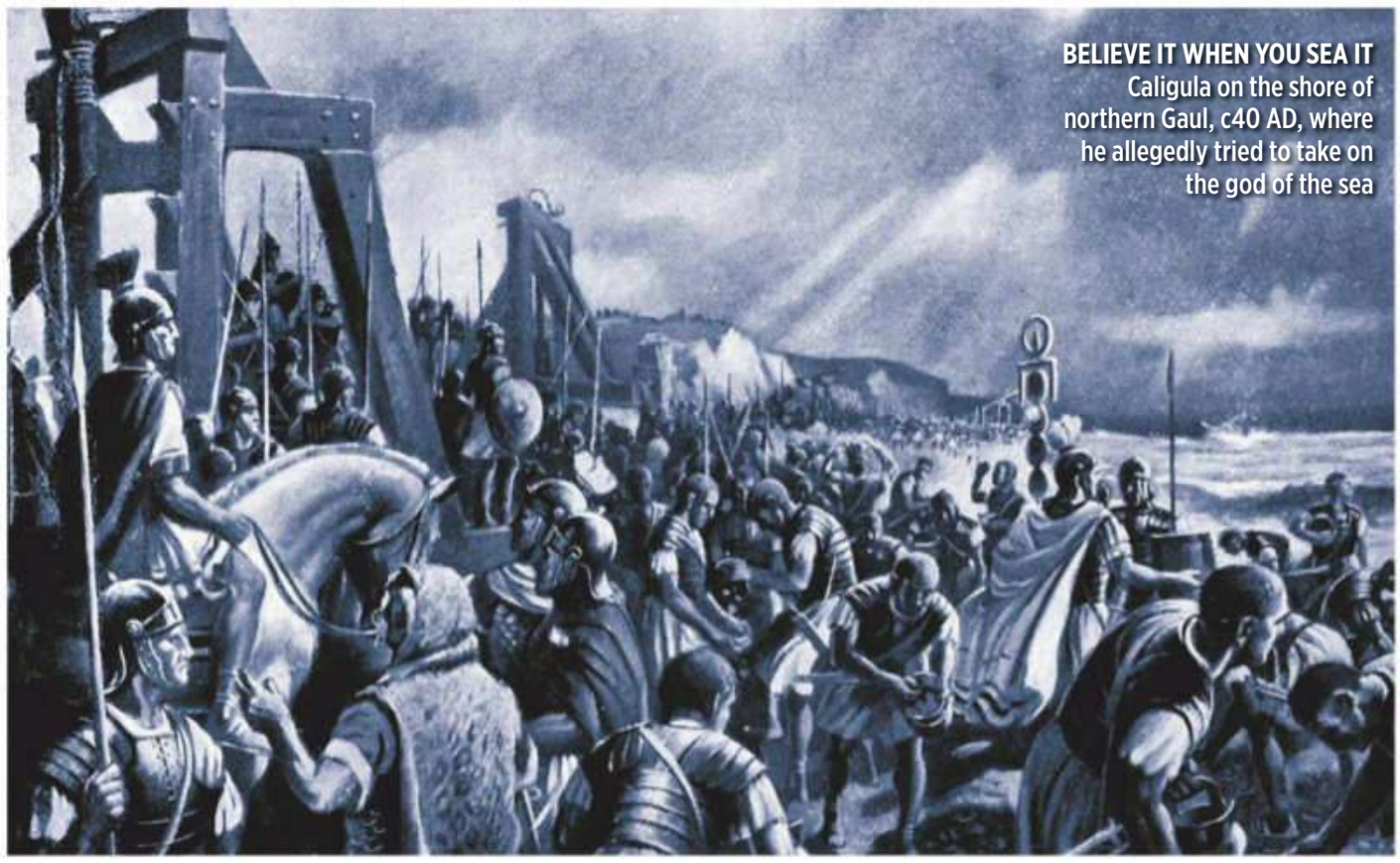
SHORT ANSWER Welsh farmers protested road tolls by taking inspiration from the biblical Rebecca

LONG ANSWER In the 1840s, bands of disguised and armed protestors roamed the countryside of southwest Wales, angry at the extortionate tolls being levied on public roads. The tollgates installed by groups of businessmen, called turnpike trusts, proved one economic hardship too far.

The gates became a symbol of widespread disaffection, exacerbated by rising rents, the burden of church tithes, worsening poverty and the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, which established the hated workhouses. Riots broke out and tollgates were destroyed, with participants adopting an unconventional guise: blackened faces and women's clothing. The leader would be called 'Rebecca', after the biblical figure who was told that her children will "possess the gates of those who hate them"; his followers became 'her daughters'.

The riots reached their peak in 1843, before soldiers were brought in to put them down, but the Rebeccas and daughters had some success as laws controlling turnpike trusts were passed and the tolls lowered.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2



BELIEVE IT WHEN YOU SEA IT
Caligula on the shore of northern Gaul, c40 AD, where he allegedly tried to take on the god of the sea

Did Caligula really wage war on the sea?

SHORT ANSWER Yes, in a way only a mad Roman emperor could – but take the histories with a pinch of salt

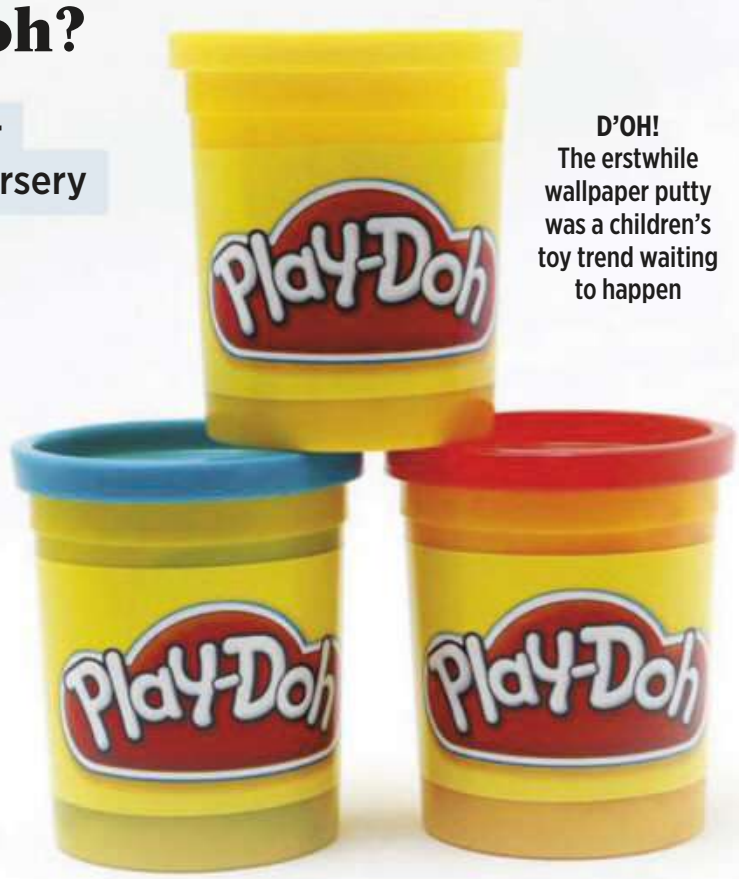
LONG ANSWER The name Caligula and words like 'madness', 'tyrant' and 'sadistic' often go together. Among his misdeeds as Roman emperor, he reportedly made his horse a consul, declared himself a god and killed for his own amusement. There's a major problem with what we 'know' about Caligula, however: everything comes from biased histories and attacks on his character (he made a lot of enemies) so the truth is near impossible to ascertain.

Roman historian Suetonius biographer of 12 rulers of Rome and no stranger to dramatic licence claimed that Caligula led his army to the shores of northern Gaul (France) in c39 40 AD, intending an invasion of Britain. He lined up his soldiers on the beach and declared war on Neptune, god of the sea, and had the waves attacked. Once victory was assured, he ordered seashells to be collected as spoils of war.

Was this a sign of his insanity, or desperation for a military win? Or did Caligula contrive this watery war as a form of punishment against potentially mutinous troops, humiliating them by making them bend down to pick up shells? As with everything else concerning Caligula, why let the truth get in the way of a good story?

Who invented Play-Doh?

SHORT ANSWER A soap manufacturer invented the wallpaper cleaner; a nursery school teacher invented the toy



D'OH!
The erstwhile wallpaper putty was a children's toy trend waiting to happen

LONG ANSWER By the 1950s, demand for wallpaper cleaner had plummeted. The putty would be used to wipe soot from the walls, but as more people turned to gas and electricity, it just wasn't flying off the shelves any more. Soap manufacturer Noah McVicker had invented the stuff for Kutol Products, and now it was up to his nephew, Joseph, to save the company. Luckily for him, his sister in law and nursery school teacher Kay Zufall had the idea that the non toxic putty dough would make a good children's toy, and she quickly proved this theory with her class. From that, a toy sensation was moulded.

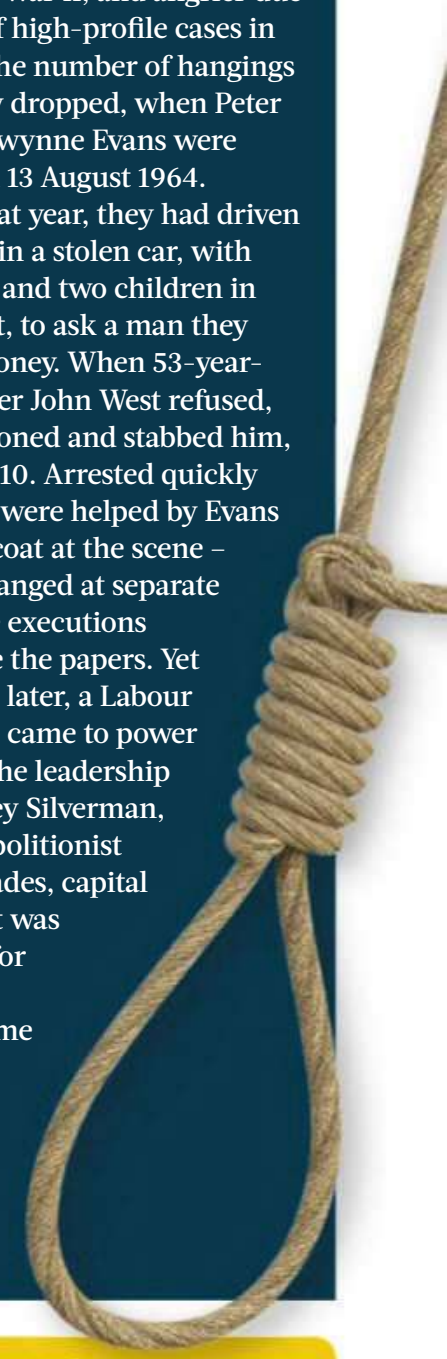
Who was the last person to be hanged in Britain?

SHORT ANSWER

The 1964 execution of two convicted murderers did not seem momentous, but change was coming

LONG ANSWER The call to abolish the death penalty had grown louder since World War II, and angrier due to a series of high-profile cases in the 1950s. The number of hangings had severely dropped, when Peter Allen and Gwynne Evans were executed on 13 August 1964.

Earlier that year, they had driven to Cumbria in a stolen car, with Allen's wife and two children in the backseat, to ask a man they knew for money. When 53-year-old van driver John West refused, they bludgeoned and stabbed him, and all for £10. Arrested quickly – the police were helped by Evans leaving his coat at the scene – they were hanged at separate prisons. The executions barely made the papers. Yet two months later, a Labour government came to power and under the leadership of MP Sydney Silverman, an ardent abolitionist for two decades, capital punishment was suspended for five years, which became permanent in 1969.



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Q&A SPECIAL

FOUR THINGS YOU (PROBABLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT VIKING LIFE

Neil Price, Distinguished Professor of Archaeology at the University of Uppsala, explores four lesser-known facets of the Viking mindset in this excerpt from a recent episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast. He was speaking to our content director, **David Musgrove**

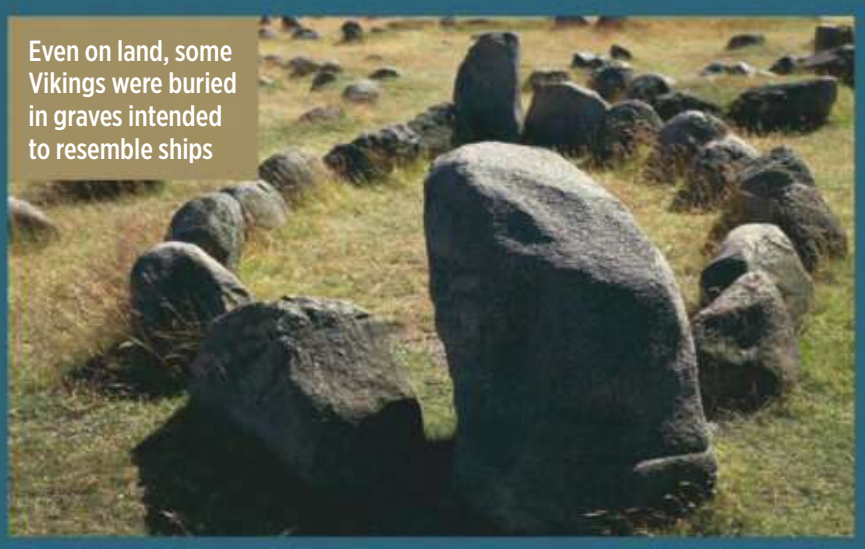
PODCAST

Listen to the full conversation at *historyextra.com/viking-mind*

DOES THE EVIDENCE REALLY SUGGEST THAT VIKINGS SLEPT SITTING UP?

Yes. If you look at the few surviving beds that we have, they're much smaller than a conventional bed. A reasonably average-sized person couldn't stretch out in one. If you look in some of the later halls, which have 'bed boxes' built into the walls, they're not big enough to sleep stretched out in either. The Vikings might have slept curled up on their sides, but we know from some of the descriptions that people also slept sort of propped up with cushions and things – imagine sleeping in the same way as you might, say, read in bed.

In one of the best eyewitness descriptions of a Viking funeral, Arab soldier and diplomat Ibn-Fadlān encounters Vikings in Russia and watches a boat burial. And he says how they prop the dead man up in his bed with cushions and things. Ibn-Fadlān doesn't seem to realise this, but I think that the dead man is asleep; they're putting him in bed.



Even on land, some Vikings were buried in graves intended to resemble ships

The deliberate dental work is clear to see on this Viking skull

DID THE VIKINGS REALLY CARVE GROOVES INTO THEIR TEETH?

Some certainly did, but not everybody by any means. This is something that's been found in skeletons from Viking cemeteries. It's only been found on the bodies of men – in some populations, about 10 per cent of the men. As far as we know, there are no women who filed their teeth.

What they did was file horizontal grooves across the front teeth, kind of like a wedge shape in section. They were probably coloured in with something like resin, so you would have seen these sorts of stripy lines across people's teeth. Apparently, it wouldn't have been that painful.

What it means is another matter. There are all kinds of ideas. Perhaps it's a mark of rank, or a bit like a tattoo to show that you've done something. Or maybe it shows how many people you've killed. It could even be, in some cases, some kind of mark of enslavement, like a brand. We don't know. It doesn't have to mean the same thing everywhere either, but the practice goes on a long time.

IS IT TRUE THAT VIKING CLOTHES DIDN'T HAVE POCKETS?

I haven't been able to find any Viking garment with pockets! And now I'm sure you'll get lots of correspondence from Viking textile people saying, yes, there is, but I haven't found a single one.

DID THE VIKINGS ACTUALLY HAVE TATTOOS?

It's hard to say. Ibn-Fadlān, the Arab soldier and diplomat who witnessed a ship burial in Russia, describes the men he saw as being covered in pictures from their toenails to their necks. So it is full body stuff. It could be paint, but it's probably tattoos. There have been no finds of preserved skin with tattoos – or finds of tattooing needles or anything like that, but they could have been organic. So we don't know, but it certainly seems like they had a lot of body art.

Tattoos have become a popular way to signpost Norsemen in pop culture – this is Rollo from the TV series *Vikings*

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1

ONE TO WATCH

The film imagines how Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) might have spent the night after his 1964 victory over Sonny Liston

Changes gonna come

One Night in Miami / on limited cinema release, then streaming from 15 January on Amazon Prime

On 25 February 1964, a glib and fast-talking young boxer stepped into the ring with the most feared fighter of his day, Sonny Liston. Few gave 22-year-old Cassius Clay a chance, but he prevailed against the odds to become heavyweight champion of the world. When the fight was finished, Clay headed to a motel in Overtown, the black area of Miami. There, he met with three friends: soul singer Sam Cooke, civil rights activist Malcolm X and American football star Jim Brown.

What did the men talk about? In 2013, Kemp Powers' play, *One Night In Miami*, portrayed the meeting as a kind of summit. The night of Clay's triumph, thinks Malcolm, would be an ideal time to eat ice cream and reflect on life. His friends aren't so sure.

Whether that's how things really went down is, of course, debatable. Nevertheless, the triumph of the play, which Powers himself has adapted for this debut feature from director Regina King, is to bring the spirit of familiar figures vividly to life at a key period in their respective lives and indeed for the wider civil rights movement.

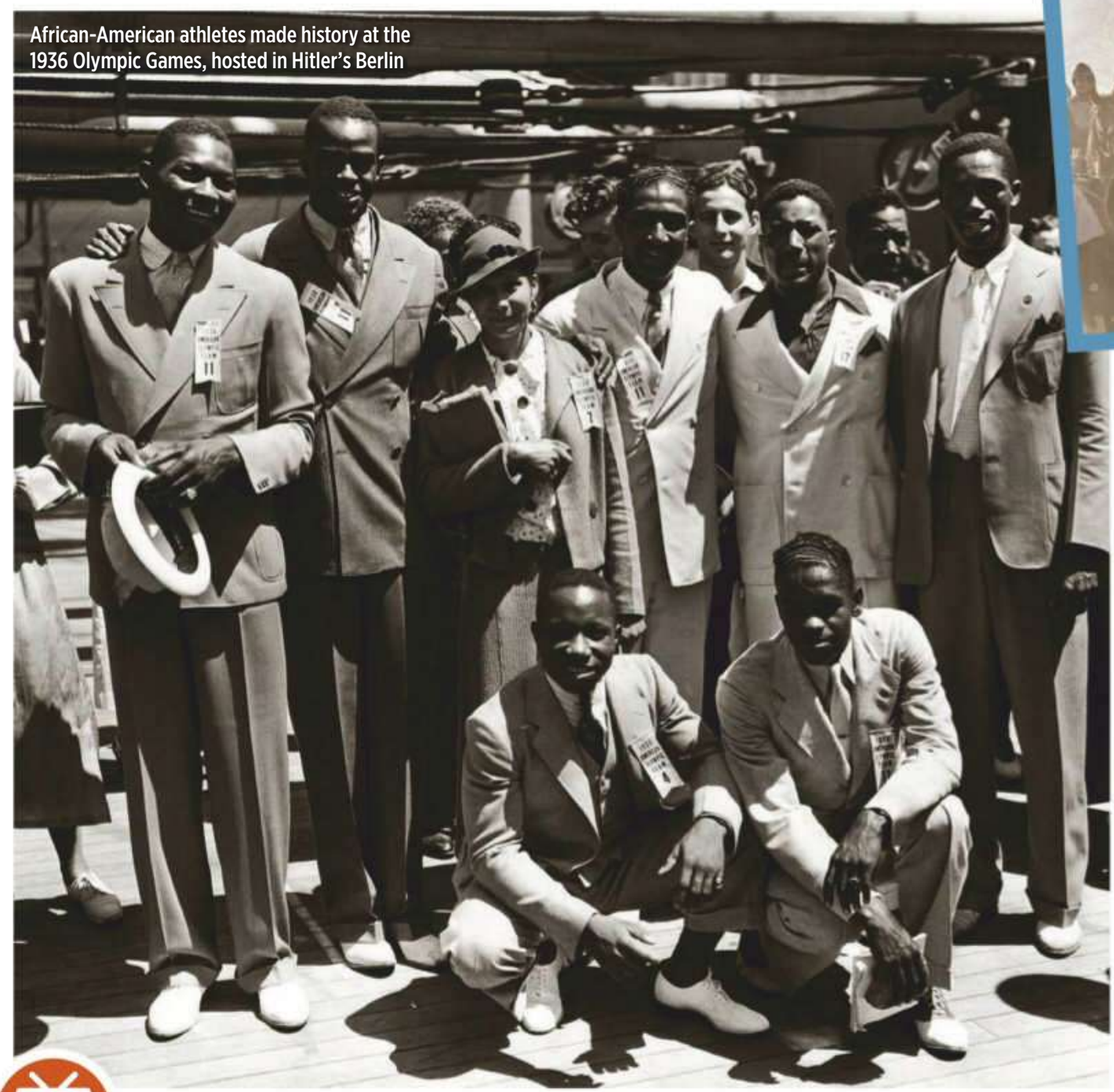
At one point, for example, Malcolm (Kingsley Ben Adir) berates Cooke (Leslie Odom Jr) for not writing a political song to match Bob Dylan's 'Blowin' in the Wind'. This was the year, of course, when Cooke, shot dead in December 1964, would release 'A Change is Gonna Come'. We also learn that Clay (Eli Goree), soon to become Muhammad Ali, is set to join the Nation of Islam, just as Malcolm X has decided to leave the organisation. Brown (Aldis Hodge) contemplates a post-NFL career as an actor.

If *Miami* sometimes portrays its theatrical roots, that's eminently forgivable when set against its vivid evocation of the 1960s, and the way its stars make the most of sometimes explosive exchanges that mix the personal and political.

Negro Leaders Want Civil Rights Problem Placed in Campaign
Herald-Dispatch
MUSLIMS CHARGE N.Y. POLICE VIOLATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

British actor Kingsley Ben-Adir plays Malcolm X

AMAZON STUDIOS X2



African-American athletes made history at the 1936 Olympic Games, hosted in Hitler's Berlin

Sporting pioneers

Olympic Pride, American Prejudice / PBS America, scheduled for Friday 15 January

Among the images that linger in popular memory from the 1936 Berlin Olympics, photographs of Jesse Owens have a particular power and poignancy. Here was a man whose four gold medals in sprint events and the long jump were a rebuke to Nazi myths about the superiority of the so-called Aryan race.

But without in any way diminishing Owens' achievements, this righteously angry feature documentary from Deborah Riley Draper reminds us that 18 African-American athletes, 16 men and two women, travelled to Germany that year to represent the US. Too many of the stories of the other athletes have become lost in time, if only because of their sporting prowess. This becomes abundantly clear when you see, for example, grainy archive footage of Archie Williams easing ahead of the world's best to win the 400m.

This footage also highlights the racism the athletes faced as a commentator, speaking in a bluff British accent, exclaims "That negro's dangerous!" as Williams manages to get past the British silver medallist, Godfrey Brown.

In truth, such remarks were often the least of the competitors' problems. These were athletes who hailed from a country where, in the American South, Jim Crow laws still applied. These were also athletes who knew they had to not just excel in their disciplines, but to be so far ahead of their white counterparts that there was no possible excuse to leave them out of the team.

The effort was historically important. Collectively, the achievements of these men and women were both a precursor and an inspiration to the civil rights movement.

Louise Stokes and Tidye Pickett were the first black US female Olympians

The new Netflix epic tells the story of a Spanish icon

A knight's tale

El Cid / Amazon Prime, streaming now

Castilian knight and warlord Rodrigo "Ruy" Díaz de Vivar, better known as El Cid (c1043 99), is a national hero in Spain. He also emerges from history as an enigmatic and complex figure, which of course gives plenty of scope to storytellers to make what they will of his life.

In this five part Spanish language series, Jaime Lorente (one of the stars of the Netflix thriller *Money Heist*) bravely takes on a role that, at least in the English speaking world, has long been associated with Charlton Heston.

The focus is on El Cid as a young man making his way in the world and establishing his reputation. The fact the show employed 11,000 extras suggests we should expect a drama that puts a premium on sheer scale.

Sara Pascoe travels the globe to learn about the jobs and skills that could soon be lost to history

TALKBACK/FREMANTLE X1, AMAZON STUDIOS X1, GETTY IMAGES X2

Linked stories

How the Irish Shaped Britain / BBC Radio 4, scheduled for Monday 11 January

When 2020 ticks over into 2021, the Brexit transition period will end, profoundly changing the United Kingdom's relationship with its European neighbours. For the Republic of Ireland in particular, this will be a momentous moment.

That's because Ireland and the UK have links that reach back through the centuries. Over these years, the Irish Sea has rarely been a barrier. Instead, it's been a conduit to link the politics, economies and cultures of the two main islands in the British Isles.

During this time, argues journalist Fergal Keane, who was born in London but raised in Dublin and Cork, the Irish have exerted an enduring influence on wider British life. It's an argument he sets out in a new three-part series that, while acknowledging the idea of Irish history as in part a struggle against its empire-building neighbours, instead focuses on how the Irish have subverted ideas of colonialism.

Along the way, we learn how many features of Britishness actually have their roots in Ireland – imagine British musical history without The Beatles, The Sex Pistols and Oasis, for example. In other walks of life such as business and sport, it's a similar story.

Turning to recent history, the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the Queen's state visit to Ireland in 2011 together represented a high point of cooperation between the UK and Ireland. What, asks Keane, will happen to the relationship now?

The signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 is often cited as a watershed moment in the history of British-Irish relations

Working holidays

Last Woman on Earth with Sara Pascoe / BBC Two and BBC iPlayer, from 27 December

Not all jobs get handed down to the next generation. All the more reason for, in what you might loosely call an exercise in hands-on archaeology, Sara Pascoe to travel the world to try to learn the skills of those whose crafts are in danger of being lost forever.

Her first journey, available on BBC iPlayer if you missed it because you were too busy eating Christmas leftovers, finds the comedian and writer in Cuba. In Havana she meets mattress magician Juan, a man who, as his job title suggests, revitalises mattresses, which are expensive in the country. She also meets a family who make *cucurucho*, a sweet eaten from cones – once they've climbed trees to collect the coconuts crucial to the recipe.

In episode two, Pascoe heads to Europe and visits Georgia, where she meets a gunsmith, a polyphonic singer and a guide at the Stalin Museum. Finally, she goes to Finland and finds a country where the timber trade has given rise to the job of forest cleaner. She also trains as an elf in Santa's village.

A decade of change

Three Pounds in My Pocket / BBC Radio 4, scheduled for Friday 8 January

The series charting the social and political history of British South Asians, presented by Kavita Puri (*pictured*) and built around first-person testimony, returns with the focus on 1989–2001.

For many of those growing up in the 1990s, this was a golden age culturally, as we learn when we meet Mits and DJ Ritu, DJs at Bombay Jungle, a Soho club night where the playlist mixed Bhangra with hip-hop, reggae and soul. We also learn how life for British South Asians changed post-9/11.

EXPERIENCING HISTORY

Museums and historical spaces are continuing to reopen their doors in many areas of Britain, but there is still plenty of history to be enjoyed online

MUST SEE

London's Underground stations were used as shelters in the Blitz

London Transport at War

NEW GALLERY

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

PAID ENTRY *ltmuseum.co.uk*

A new permanent gallery has opened at the London Transport Museum, exploring the fascinating history of the capital's buses, trains and trams during the World Wars.

Featuring a huge range of vehicles and interactive exhibits, *London Transport at War* examines the vast challenges imposed upon the network in 1914 18 and 1939–45, and also documents the role its staff played in supporting the war effort.

Indeed, while fighting may have been raging overseas, life still had to continue for those at home and the likes of train drivers and bus conductors quite literally kept things moving.

Highlights include an immersive exhibit that allows visitors to experience what it would have been like to shelter in an Underground station during the Blitz, plus a selection of World War I propaganda posters, which implored the city's young men to join the fight.

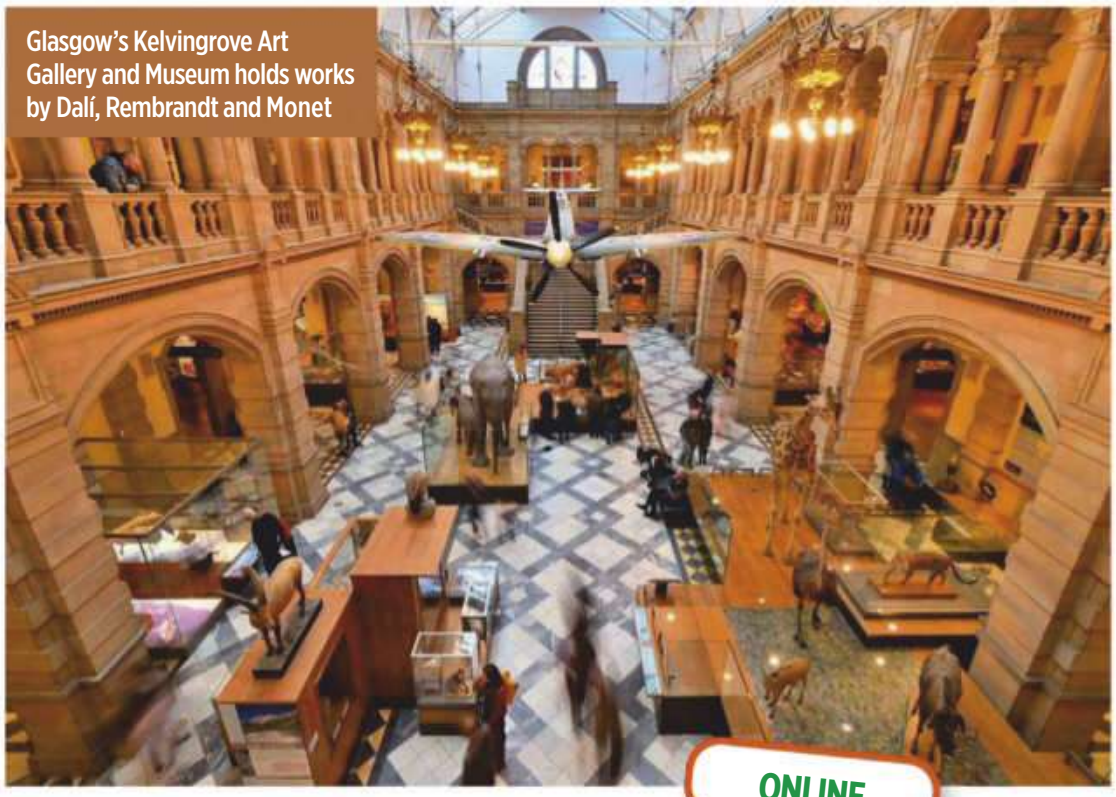
Visitors will also discover how the capital's buses were used to ferry troops to the Western Front during World War I, before doubling as ambulances when war returned in 1939.

The museum's World War I 'battle buses' – one of which sports camouflage paint

Access to the gallery is provided with a general admission ticket to the London Transport Museum, which must be purchased in advance. The museum is open daily from 10am–6pm, but please check the website before travelling. Adult tickets are £18.50; entry for under 18s is free.

WHEN VISITING MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SPACES, PLEASE FOLLOW OFFICIAL SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES AND FACE-COVERING RULES
DETAILS ACCURATE AT TIME OF WRITING – CHECK INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION BEFORE TRAVELLING

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X4, BODMIN JAIL ATTRACTION X1



Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum holds works by Dalí, Rembrandt and Monet

ONLINE

Glasgow Museums collections

GLASGOW MUSEUMS

bit.ly/glasgowmuseums_online

Glasgow Museums has made a huge range of its treasures available for visitors to view on the web. The organisation, which operates 11 museums and attractions across the Scottish city, looks after more than 1.4 million man-made and natural objects from all over the world. Without the need to leave home, you can examine a sarcophagus from ancient Thebes, a sword used during the 1745 Jacobite rising, and one of the world's oldest near-complete sets of armour, crafted in Milan in the 15th century. You can also browse through an extensive art and design collection, which showcases drawings, paintings and prints dating back to c1100.

EXHIBITION

BURIED AMONG KINGS: THE STORY OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM, LONDON

FREE ENTRY Until 14 February 2021, *bit.ly/nam_buriedamongkings*

To mark 100 years since the burial of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey, the National Army Museum has launched a new exhibition exploring the story behind the creation of the symbolic World War I memorial. Unveiled on 11 November 1920 – at the same time an unidentified French troop was being buried in Paris – the soldier's grave was intended to honour all British war dead who went missing in action or whose remains could not be identified. The thought-provoking display not only examines the secretive process behind the soldier's selection, but considers the legacy of the memorial today.

The Unknown Warrior was buried along with soil from French battlefields

RE-OPENING

BODMIN JAIL

CORNWALL

PAID ENTRY *bodminjail.org*

After a huge redevelopment project, Bodmin Jail has reopened as a fully immersive attraction that guides visitors through its gruesome past. Originally built in 1779, it was one of Britain's first modern prisons, boasting individual cells and segregated areas. The jail's new 'Dark Walk' exhibit uses state-of-the-art theatrical effects to demonstrate what life would have been like for its 18th and 19th-century inmates, while guests can also see the only surviving working example of a Victorian execution pit in Britain. Bodmin Jail is suitable for visitors aged eight and above, and is open every day from 10am–6.30pm (although tickets must be bought in advance). A four-star boutique hotel is also set to open within the prison's walls, with bookings available from 12 February.

For those brave enough, Bodmin Jail will also be hosting a regular programme of paranormal tours and after-dark events

Lynn Museum explores the history of West Norfolk and its people

Lynn Museum

ONLINE

KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

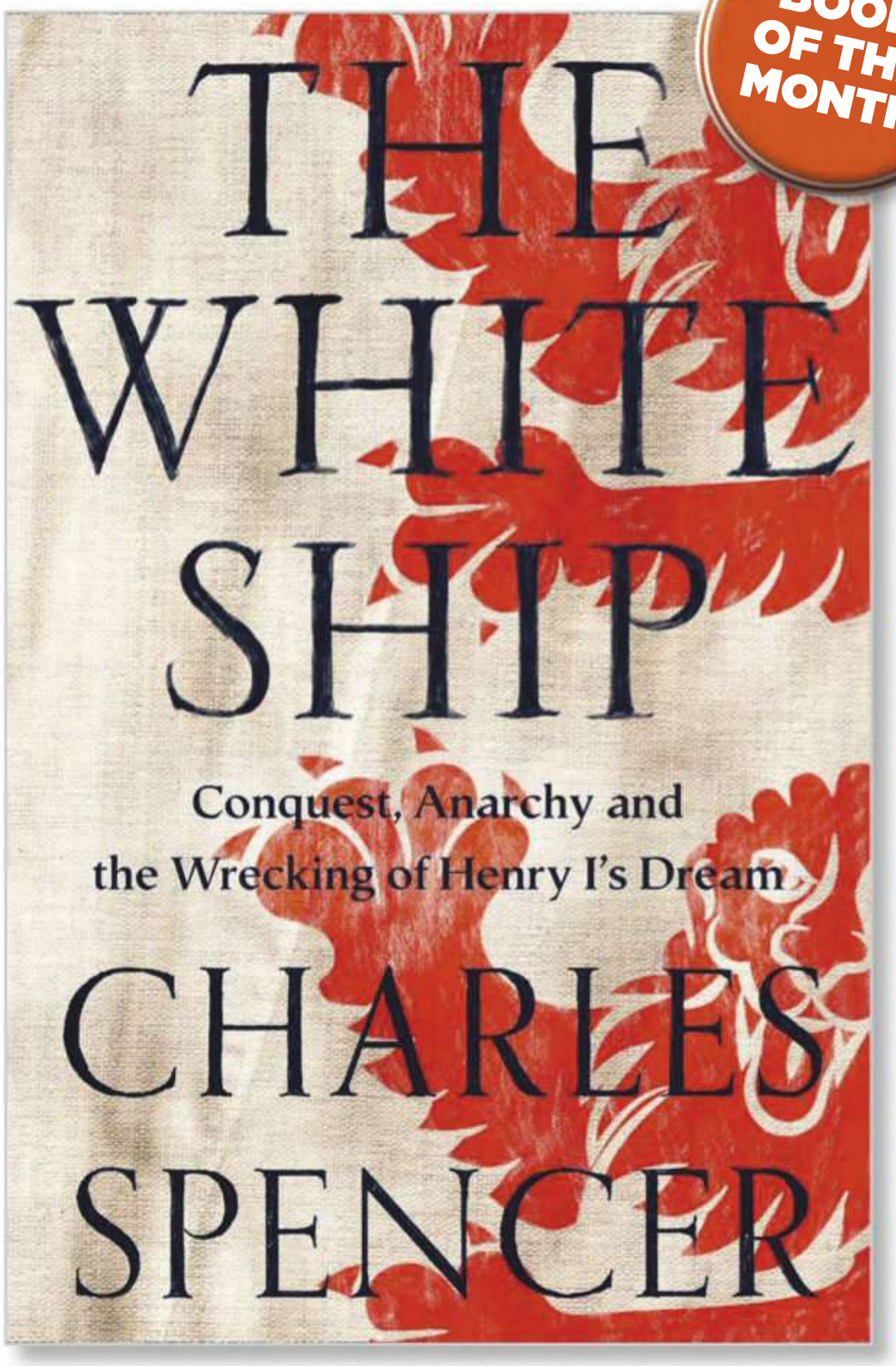
bit.ly/lynnmuseum_online

Like a growing number of museums and galleries across the globe, Lynn Museum has made its exhibitions available to view online via the Google Arts & Culture platform. With just a few clicks of the mouse, you can embark on a virtual tour of the museum itself before exploring a colourful display about the lives of the ancient Egyptians, which has been curated by local youth group Kick the Dust. For something a little bit closer to home, there's also an exhibition focusing on the story of Seahenge – the mysterious 4,000-year-old timber monument unearthed on the Norfolk coast during the late 1980s.

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS

BOOK OF THE MONTH



The White Ship: Conquest, Anarchy and the Wrecking of Henry I's Dream

By Charles Spencer
William Collins, £25, hardback, 352 pages

Charles Spencer has a knack for making seemingly remote historical events accessible for modern audiences. His latest book, for instance, suggests that the 1120 sinking of the *White Ship* was more meaningful for the course of history than the sinking of *Titanic* almost 800 years later. A big budget Hollywood adaptation may not yet be on the cards, but this is an exemplary substitute combining maritime disaster, personal tragedy, and a royal family on the brink of extinction.

Pandora's Jar: Women in the Greek Myths

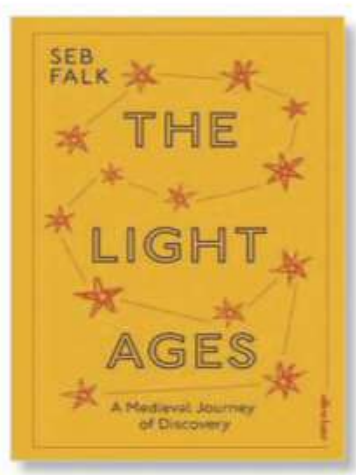
By Natalie Haynes
Picador, £20, hardback, 310 pages

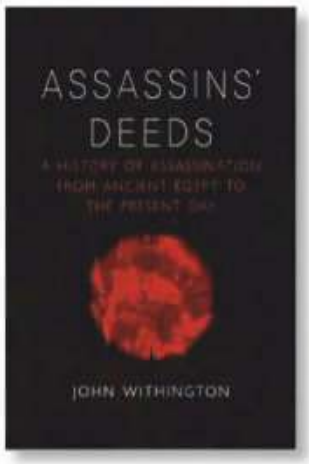
Most of us have heard of Pandora's Box but the idea that it was actually a jar is rather less well known. It's a potent example of the way in which our understanding of ancient Greek myths is askew, and here Natalie Haynes unpicks how subsequent adaptations have particularly distorted our view of their female characters. Haynes is great company, and she has much to say about the way in which we tell and retell stories.

The Light Ages: A Medieval Journey of Discovery

By Seb Falk
Allen Lane, £20, hardback, 416 pages

So often disparagingly dismissed as 'the Dark Ages', the centuries before the Renaissance were far from a scientific vacuum. This look at an era of surprisingly sophisticated thought aims to put the record straight, exploring the breakthroughs (eyeglasses, the clock, our understanding of light) and innovators who paved the way for future developments as well as the weird and wonderful ideas that seem wholly alien to 21st-century eyes.





Assassins' Deeds: A History of Assassination from Ancient Egypt to the Present Day

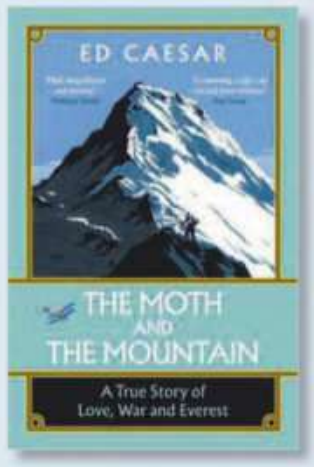
By John Withington
Reaktion Books, £18, hardback, 368 pages

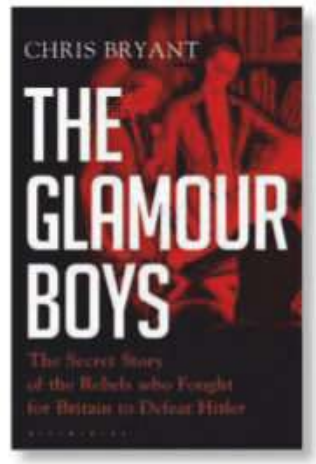
History is studded with infamous moments in which the rich and powerful met untimely ends and this book charts the methods and motivations of those who have meted them out. It's arranged chronologically, taking in everything from the Ides of March, the day on which Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC, right through to the horrors of modern terrorism.

The Moth and the Mountain: A True Story of Love, War and Everest

By Ed Caesar
Viking, £18.99, hardback, 288 pages

Reaching the summit of Everest is already a daunting enough task that attempting it without ever having climbed a mountain before would seem to tip into foolhardiness. Yet that's exactly what British adventurer Maurice Wilson set out to do in 1934. This account reveals whether he succeeded, and offers fascinating insights into what drives people such as Wilson along the way.





The Glamour Boys: The Secret Story of the Rebels who Fought for Britain to Defeat Hitler

By Chris Bryant
Bloomsbury, £25, hardback, 448 pages

The 1938 image of British prime minister Neville Chamberlain brandishing a sheet of paper adorned with Hitler's signature and declaring "peace in our time" is instantly recognisable. Less familiar is the story of a group of gay MPs who banded together to oppose appeasement, risking ridicule. Vividly told by author and politician Chris Bryant, this is a refreshing take on both Second World War and LGBTQ history.

HistoryExtra Podcast

Each month we bring you three of our favourite interviews from the HistoryExtra podcast archives...

Visit historyextra.com/podcast for new podcasts every week

THIS MONTH... three podcasts on ancient Greece

Paul Cartledge interview

bit.ly/PaulCartledgePod90

Step into the world of the ancient Greeks with this interview with leading historian Paul Cartledge, part of our *Everything You Wanted to Know...* series. It's such a vast topic that the conversation, recorded in August 2020, is split into two parts offering a tour of a civilisation that spanned centuries from the 12th century BC to the first century AD, and whose influence is still felt today.

A trip to ancient Greece

bit.ly/GreeceTripPod90

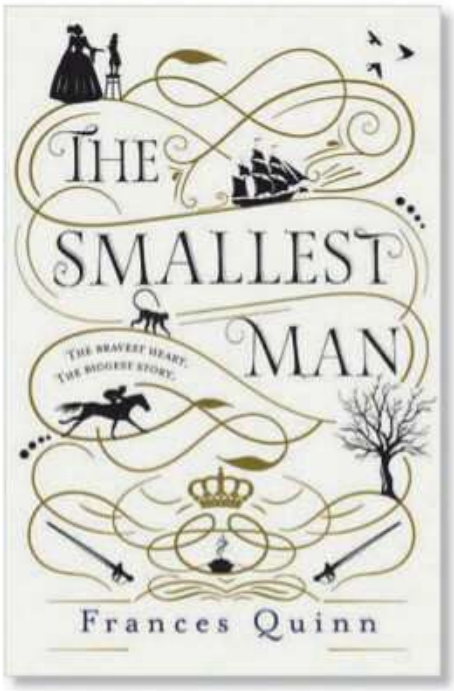
If you still have lingering questions about ancient Greece, Classical historian Peter Jones is on hand to tackle them in this 2015 interview. As Jones points out, the Greeks invented everything from democracy and philosophy to comedy and tragedy, and he evocatively brings to life some of the key figures from this period of remarkable intellectual development.

Neil Oliver interview

bit.ly/NeilOliverPod90

Despite being separated by millennia, our ancient ancestors have much to teach us today, in the 21st century. That's the view of historian and TV presenter Neil Oliver, who's on fine form in this 2020 conversation. It's not entirely focused on ancient Greek civilisation, but instead offers an intriguingly holistic view of the types of problems that have repeatedly challenged humankind.

HISTORICAL FICTION....



The Smallest Man

By Frances Quinn
7 January 2021, Simon & Schuster, £14.99

During the chaotic early 17th century in England, Nat Davy realises at the age of ten that he won't grow tall like the other boys he's different. He is soon hurtled into the realm of the royal court and gifted to the new Queen of England, Henrietta Maria a young woman in a foreign country who's as lonely as he. An unlikely friendship blossoms between the two as they navigate the scary world of the Civil Wars. *The Smallest Man* is inspired by the true story of the court dwarf Jeffrey Hudson, who could be found in the court of Charles I.

Excerpt

During the execution of Charles I in 1649

The day dawned bitterly cold, and my breath billowed out in front of me as I followed the crowds to Whitehall. My old home was a barracks now, run down and shabby. They'd built a scaffold outside the banqueting hall, level with the first floor windows, and hacked a rough opening in the wall. The platform was draped in black, and the block was in the middle, so low he wouldn't even be able to kneel, but would have to lie flat. On either side were thick metal staples; a man standing near me told his daughter he'd be tied to them if he struggled. They knew, anyone who'd ever had dealings with him would know, he wouldn't struggle. But someone had decided to put them there anyway.

A row of pikemen, stamping their feet against the cold, stood with their backs to the scaffold, keeping the crowds at a distance, as though even now, someone might try to rescue him. But I heard no one speak against the proceedings, and the people around me showed nothing more than curiosity: speculating about how the thing would be done, whether he might say anything, even what he would wear, as though it was a new form of entertainment that might or might not catch on, depending on how well the first performance went.

OWEN BOYD X1

Q&A
Frances Quinn

Frances Quinn read English at King's College, Cambridge, and as a journalist has written for publications including *Prima*, *Good Housekeeping* and *Woman's Weekly*. *The Smallest Man* is her first novel. She lives in Brighton with her husband and cats.

How did you first discover the story of Jeffrey Hudson and what inspired you to base your novel on him?
I'd planned to write a murder mystery set in the 17th century and found Jeffrey's story accidentally while I was researching that. Reading about this man, who'd been given a difficult hand in life yet seized the chance to make something of himself and had some incredible adventures, I got what my agent calls 'the tingle' and the murder mystery bit the dust.

Why do you think Jeffrey and Henrietta Maria struck up such an unexpected friendship?
We don't actually know what kind of relationship they had – all that's documented is that she was very fond of him. But I was intrigued by the fact that he was given to her at the age of ten, as a sort of human pet, yet he was still with her years later, when she travelled to Holland to buy arms for the King, and when she fled to France at the height of the war. The Queen is known to have been homesick and unhappy in what was, at the start, a difficult marriage, and perhaps in that situation you would turn to someone who was also lonely and far from home. And they were only five years apart in age.

What made you create the character of Nat, rather than following Jeffrey's story?
Only parts of Jeffrey's story are known, so I'd have had to make up a lot anyway, and I didn't want to write what would essentially be a fictionalised biography. Inventing Nat left me freer to build a story that worked in its own right.

What is your writing process like?
For *The Smallest Man*, I had a very loose overall outline, and I would plan chapters in more detail until I got bored with planning, then write until I ran out of plan. It's not a very efficient way to work. For my next book, I planned the story much more thoroughly before I started writing.

Do you enjoy the research process that historical fiction requires and are you planning to continue writing more historical novels?
I love the research. My next book is set in Georgian London, and from my desk at home I can travel back there and find out what the place smelled like, what I'd see if I walked down a particular street and even where to go to find a good pie. Who wouldn't love doing that for a job?

LETTERS

THE BLITZ
One of the most feared sounds on the home front was the wail of an air raid siren...
"Though London suffered some of the worst bombing raids, other locations were targeted too"
THE REAL DAD'S ARMY
SEVEN PLACES WHERE THE BOMBS LANDED

LEFT: **Our essential guide to the WWII British home front evoked memories for many readers**
RIGHT: **Pam Carter (*front right*) and her sister Ruth (*back right*) as evacuees c1941**

SCANNING THE SKIES

I enjoyed reading the essential guide to the World War II British home front (Christmas 2020). When I reached the section on the Blitz and saw the photograph of the 'spotter' my thoughts immediately went to the Royal Observer Corps (ROC) – my father-in-law was Leading Observer at a post in Staffordshire.

The ROC operated between October 1925 and December 1995. The uniform was RAF style and ROC personnel were, in the main, civilian volunteers under the command of the Commandant Royal Observer Corps – a full-time professional officer.

The Observer Corps was awarded the title 'Royal' by King George VI for service during the Battle of Britain, as indicated by your photograph of the spotter during the Blitz (*pictured above*). From here onwards the Corps developed aircraft recognition skills and the tracking of enemy aircraft once they had crossed the coastline of Britain.

A change of role took place in the 1950s and the ROC was equipped to operate in a nuclear environment, with many underground posts were constructed. This enabled ROC personnel to be able to forecast radioactive fallout, blast effects and radiation from nuclear blasts. These places were named 'control posts' and provided bomb-proof nuclear-protected buildings. They were usually built 80 miles apart.

Perhaps the history of the ROC can be traced back to the days of the Spanish Armada of 1588 and the beacons that were lit to warn of invaders by sea. It is due to this that the Elizabethan Firelighter for such beacons is used on the badge of the Royal Observer Corps.

Peter Cadman, by email

MEMORIES OF WAR

I really enjoyed your recent issue on the home front (Christmas 2020), particularly the section on the Blitz. I found this especially interesting as my father was in Air Raid Precautions (ARP) and was therefore one of the those involved in that dreadful part of the war .

On one occasion, when I had come back for a visit from my evacuation billet, I can remember my father coming home really shaken up after being shot at by enemy aircraft while trying to help put out the fires. He died at the age of just 56; the trauma of those war years didn't help him.

Pam Carter, Vale of Glamorgan

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thank you for sending the magazine – it's fantastic. My partner enjoyed reading it so much, she has taken out a six-month subscription!

Roy Fleming, Norfolk

Editor says:

I had the pleasure of speaking to both Pam and Roy recently (as well as several other individuals), when they were kind enough to share their memories of being evacuated during World War Two. We printed their evacuation stories in our home front essential guide, in the Christmas issue.

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the crossword from issue 87 are:

B Wyman, Surrey
S Wells, Lincolnshire
S Buchalter, Greater Manchester

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *A History of Magic, Witchcraft & the Occult.*

Please note, there will be a delay in posting your prize due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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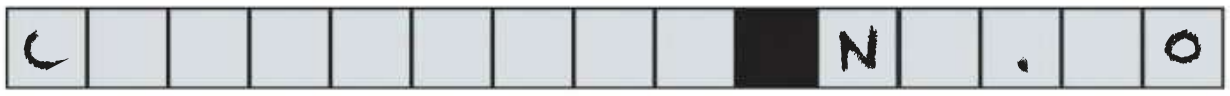
CROSSWORD

TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR HISTORICAL PUZZLE EVERY ISSUE



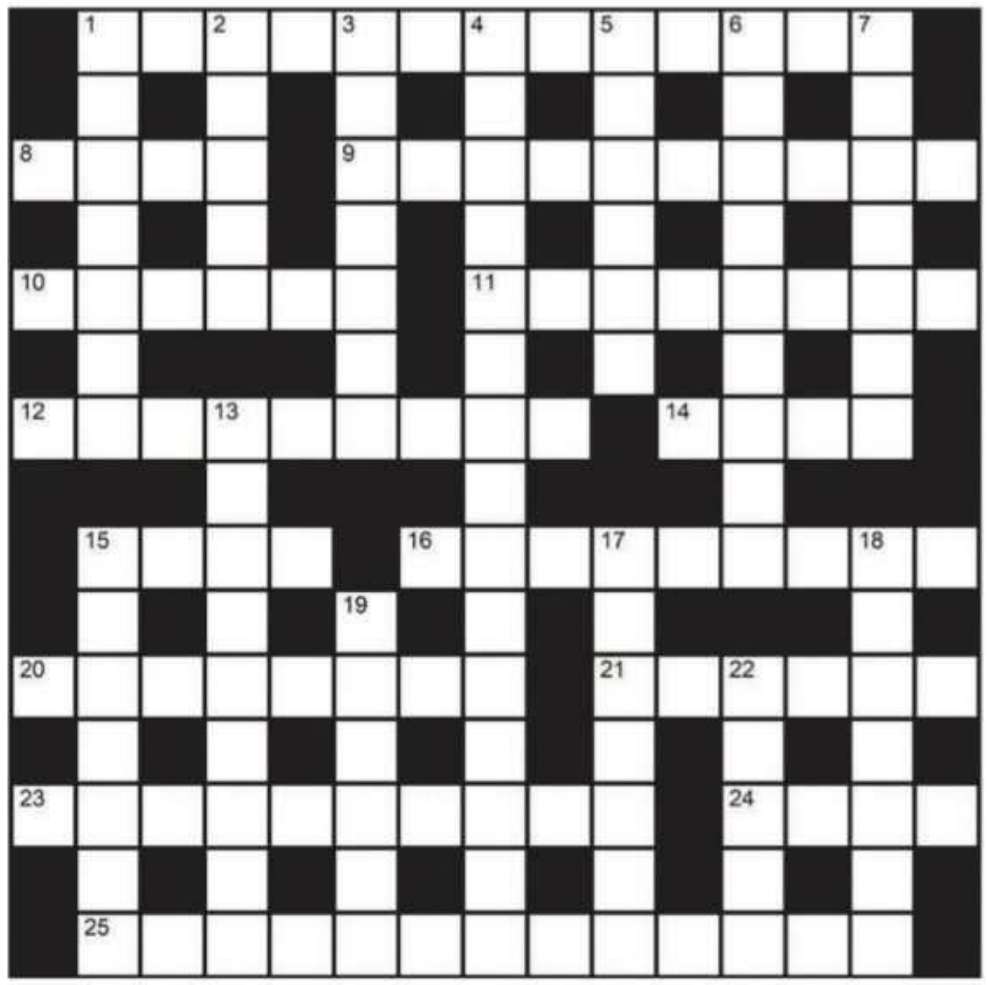
Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

ACROSS

1 Lancastrian comedian, born John Eric Bartholomew (1926–84) (4,9)
8 Pacific island republic, independent since 1987 (4)
9 Term for a heavy vehicle taken from a Sanskrit word for one of the forms of Vishnu (10)
10 Legendary British king (6)
11 Cornish village associated with the legends of 10 Across (8)
12 *The* ___, 1978 concert film directed by Martin Scorsese (4,5)
14 Supporting rope on a sailing ship (4)
15 William ___ (d1623), English Renaissance composer (4)
16 English playwright and poet (1572–1637) (3,6)
20 Plant whose medicinal uses were recorded in ancient Egypt and ancient Greece (4,4)
21 Marquis ___ (1740–1814), notorious nobleman, libertine and author (2,4)
23 Claudio ___ (1567–1643), Italian composer (10)
24 Nickname for Lincoln City FC (founded 1884) (4)
25 French philosopher (1596–1650) who averred 'Cogito, ergo sum' (4,9)

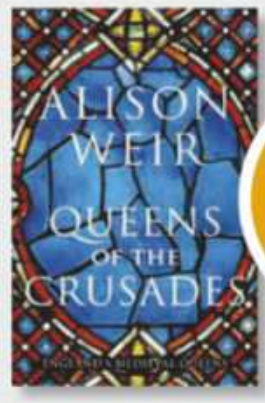
DOWN

1 African country, historically part of the kingdoms of Aksum and Medri Bahri (7)
2 'The ___ Rover', folk song about a legendary sailing ship (5)
3 Mediterranean island occupied by the Romans in 123 BC (7)
4 Reference book (volume, tome, manual) first published in 1852 (6,9)
5 ___ Walk, historic thoroughfare by the Thames (6)
6 1979 Woody Allen film (9)
7 See 22 Down
13 Historical region of central Asia (9)
15 ___ Declaration, 1917 statement on Palestine and the Jewish people (7)
17 Term for Jewish ceremonial art (7)
18 Tragic hero in Greek myth (7)
19 Pavel ___ (b1972), Czech footballer (6)
22/7 down Antoine de ___ (1900–44), author of *The Little Prince* (1943) (5-7)



Set by Richard Smyth

CHANCE TO WIN



BOOK WORTH £25 FOR THREE WINNERS

Queens of the Crusades
Alison Weir

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, January 2021 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **january2021@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 February 2021**.

By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *BBC History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.
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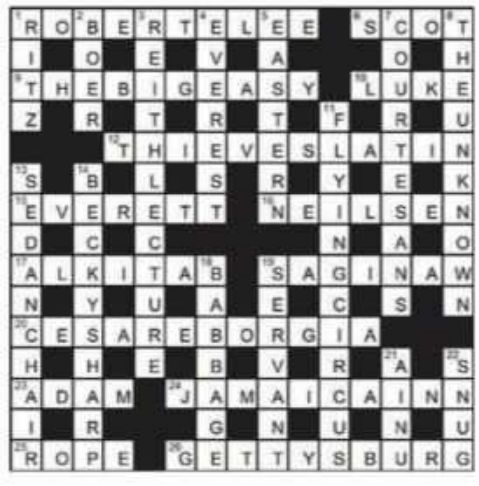
SOLUTION Nº 88



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The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of ***BBC History Revealed***) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy. The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.
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NEXT ISSUE

••• ON SALE 21 JANUARY •••

THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

What did medieval people do to protect themselves from disease? Who were the Victorian body snatchers? How did women give birth in ancient times? Find out in our new essential guide...

PLUS...

AMERICA'S WORLD WAR II GHOST ARMY GRACE O'MALLEY: IRISH PIRATE QUEEN **WHAT IF JULIUS CAESAR HADN'T BEEN ASSASSINATED?** THE GREAT 19TH-CENTURY MORMON MIGRATION **IN A NUTSHELL: THE IRA** AND MUCH MORE...

BBC HISTORY REVEALED

GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO FINISH

ARRESTING IMAGES FROM THE ANNALS OF THE PAST

LA CASTIGLIONE c1863

Virginia Oldoini, the Countess of Castiglione, was an Italian aristocrat who rose to fame as a mistress of Emperor Napoleon III of France. Married at 17 to the Count of Castiglione, she was sent to France to request the aid of the emperor in Italian unification – becoming his mistress in the process. Considered one of the great beauties of the era, Oldoini's greatest love affair was with photography: she sat for hundreds of photographs, including some with her legs bare, which was considered rather risqué for the time. Oldoini was intrigued by her own beauty and would often direct the images herself, ensuring they depicted the defining moments of her life. Though she was not a photographer, Oldoini is often credited with creating the 'selfie'.

GETTY IMAGES

Thank you, Sylvia

Sylvia left a gift in her Will to help conquer Stroke

The first we knew of Sylvia was when we received notification of the gift she'd left us in her Will. Shortly after, a beautiful story of a much-loved woman began to unfurl.

Friends remembered Sylvia's kind-heart and her wish to help others. She spent part of her adult-life caring for her mother, and developed a passion for medicine. Becoming a medical secretary was her next step and, in the course of her career, she discovered the devastating impact a stroke could have on people and their families. She saw that research and treatment were vastly under-funded, and she decided to remember the Stroke Association in her Will.

Sylvia's gift has helped fund our work to conquer stroke. She's supported research to prevent and treat stroke, and she's helped care for survivors. And that's something you can do too – in the same way.

If you would like to learn more about remembering the Stroke Association in your Will, please get in touch.

Call 020 75661505 email legacy@stroke.org.uk or visit stroke.org.uk/legacy

Stroke association

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